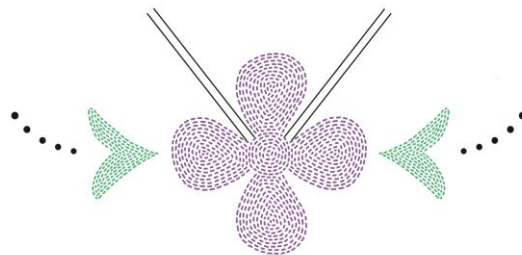


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 1 Statement Gathering
Nuu-Chah-Nulth MMIWG Gathering
Tseshaht First Nation [Ts'ishaa7ath] - Maht Maws
Port Alberni, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Wednesday September 13, 2017

Statement - Volume 178(a)

**Marcina Joe, Betty Knighton, Bernice Touchie, C.K.,
Maureen Knighton, Julia Joseph & Jolene Joe,
In relation to Florence Violet Joseph**

**Statement gathered by Breen Ouellette,
Commission Counsel**

**INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.
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II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that the name of C.K., both in this transcript and any related documents, be rendered anonymous. This order was made June 7, 2019.

III

NOTE

The use of square brackets [] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Susan Grant, Legal Assistant with National Inquiry viewed the source video recording of the proceeding to make the amendments. In particular, Ms. Grant has identified many speakers; their names now appear in square brackets. Ms. Grant made these and other amendments on August 17-22, 2018 at Vancouver, British Columbia.

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Tseshaht First Nation /Port Alberni, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, September 13, 2017

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, we started
4 recording the statement taking for the Joseph family.

5 For the record, I am noting that one of the
6 people here today to give a statement has requested not to
7 be in the video and she is sitting outside a frame. But
8 she has agreed to be recorded for audio purposes and we
9 will identify her shortly.

10 So starting on this side of the table, could
11 you state your full legal name for me?

12 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** Bernice Touchie.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** No middle name? Okay.
14 And Touchie is T-O-U-C-H-I-E? And can you tell me your
15 date of birth?

16 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** [Date of birth], 1948.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And where do you
18 presently live?

19 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** Ucluelet, B.C.,
20 Ucluelet.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you spell that for
22 me?

23 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** U-C-L-U-E-L-E-T.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, thank you.

25 And then next? Could you tell me your full

1 legal name please?

2 MS. JOLENE JOE: Jolene Cindy Joe.

3 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Jolene, J-O-L-E-N-E?

4 MS. JOLENE JOE: Yes.

5 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Cindy, C-I-N-D-Y?

6 MS. JOLENE JOE: Yeah.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Joe, J-O-E?

8 MS. JOLENE JOE: Yeah.

9 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And can you tell me
10 your date of birth?

11 MS. JOLENE JOE: [Date of birth], 1980.

12 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And where do you
13 currently reside?

14 MS. JOLENE JOE: Port Alberni, B.C.

15 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Thank you.

16 And yourself, could you tell me your full
17 legal name please?

18 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: My name is Betty
19 Knighton, K-N-I-G-H-T-O-N.

20 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: No middle name?

21 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: M.

22 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Just an M?

23 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: Yeah.

24 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. And can you
25 tell me your date of birth?

1 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: [Date of birth], 1942.

2 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And can you tell me
3 where you currently reside?

4 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: In the city or?

5 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Yeah, the city.

6 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: Port Alberni.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Port Alberni?

8 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: Yeah.

9 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And yourself?

10 MS. JULIA JOSEPH: Julia Ida Joseph.

11 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: J-U-L-I-A, I-D-A, J-O-
12 S-E-P-H? And can you tell me your date of birth?

13 MS. JULIA JOSEPH: [Date of birth], 1958.

14 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Nineteen fifty-eight
15 (1958). And where do you presently reside?

16 MS. JULIA JOSEPH: Nitinaht Lake, B.C.

17 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: What was that?

18 MS. JULIA JOSEPH: Nitinaht, N-I-T-I-N-A-H-T
19 Lake.

20 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: N-I-T?

21 MS. JULIA JOSEPH: I-N-A-H-T.

22 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: A-H-T Lake in B.C.?

23 MS. JULIA JOSEPH: Yes.

24 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Thank you.

25 And yourself? Your full legal name?

1 MS. C.K.: [C.K.].

2 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you have a middle
3 name.

4 MS. C.K.: No.

5 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. And do you know
6 your date of birth?

7 MS. C.K.: [Date of birth], 1936.

8 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Thirty-six ('36). And
9 which city do you currently reside in?

10 MS. C.K.: Currently?

11 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Yeah.

12 MS. C.K.: Nanaimo.

13 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Nanaimo.

14 And yourself, could you tell me your full
15 legal name?

16 MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON: Maureen Donna
17 Knighton.

18 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: M-A-U-R-E-E-N?

19 MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON: Correct.

20 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: D-O-N-N-A?

21 MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON: Correct.

22 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And Knighton, the same
23 as the others?

24 MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON: Yes.

25 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And can you tell me

1 your date of birth?

2 MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON: [Date of birth]

3 ~~(inaudible)~~ ['62].

4 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And can you tell me
5 where you currently reside?

6 MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON: Port Alberni.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And I'm now referring
8 to the person off camera. Could you tell me your full
9 legal name?

10 MS. MARCINA JOE: Marcina Lillian Rhonda
11 Joe.

12 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And could you spell
13 Marcina for me?

14 MS. MARCINA JOE: M-A-R-C-I-N-A.

15 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: C-I-N-A? And could
16 you spell Lillian for me?

17 MS. MARCINA JOE: L-I-L-L-I-A-N.

18 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And your second middle
19 name?

20 MS. MARCINA JOE: R-H-O-N-D-A.

21 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And Joe is J-O-E?

22 MS. MARCINA JOE: Yes.

23 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Thank you. And can
24 you tell me your date of birth?

25 MS. MARCINA JOE: [Date of birth], '86.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
2 where you currently reside?

3 **MS. MARCINA JOE:** Ahousaht, B.C.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And could you spell
5 that for me?

6 **MS. MARCINA JOE:** A-H-O-U-S-A-H-T.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

8 Before we begin talking about your
9 experiences, could we discuss the reason you have appeared
10 here today? Specifically, what do you hope to see occur
11 from providing your experiences to the National Inquiry and
12 what you hope to see come from the work of the National
13 Inquiry? And please just speak as you feel ready.

14 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** I want the National
15 Inquiry to ensure that each person in the case of violence
16 or death receive the same justice system as anyone else in
17 Canada, that their case be investigated immediately as any
18 -- as especially a murder, early investigation as possible,
19 and that these persons be as much trusted as our own people
20 in our own culture -- cultural trust, be some First Nation
21 or trusted persons who investigate.

22 That times communities need a neutral
23 policing system in order to litigate or in order to say,
24 "That person has hurt me. That person may be part of the
25 murder." A lot of communities are afraid to report

1 violence due to community backlash or fear of police,
2 maybe. Yeah.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

4 Does anybody else want to talk about the
5 outcome that they hope for from testifying today and from
6 the work of the National Inquiry?

7 **MS. JOLENE JOE:** Well, it's been four years
8 and I would just like justice for my mother.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And for you, what does
10 justice mean for your mother?

11 **MS. JOLENE JOE:** I just want closure,
12 knowing what exactly happened because I really -- I don't
13 know. And I need to know.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, thank you.

15 Does anybody else want to say what they hope
16 for as an outcome?

17 **[MS. JULIE IDA JOSEPH]:** I want to see
18 support for the family, continued support for the children
19 of these -- of our sisters, ongoing support, if it's
20 daycare or respite, education, anything, any way you can be
21 helping the children of my sisters because I see them very
22 -- struggling with life.

23 Help for anybody, all the First Nations. I
24 have my own kids and they're struggling with things like
25 daycare.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

2 **[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** I just have the
3 same thought as Bernice did about the RCMP taking a stand
4 and looking at each crime that had -- the way they would
5 with any other one and not leave it to family to have a say
6 as to whether or not they should proceed with a case. It
7 should -- any other cases they're on, they're investigating
8 it and that's what I want to see, is the equality across
9 the board.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Would anybody else
11 like to speak about outcomes?

12 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** Maybe more
13 provincially and federal statistics regarding how many
14 deaths and for what reason because I notice that there's --
15 especially a White person is murdered it's immediately on
16 the news and it's immediately reported. And there's
17 nothing stating what's happening with First Nations. Yeah.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay.

19 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** And in the case of
20 violence which was -- ours was spousal abuse -- I wanted to
21 go to Port Renfrew and take my sister away because they'd
22 already been in vehicle accidents and her life was at
23 stake. And she had already had broken bones and this man
24 was still violent. And did -- I'd like to know what the
25 community attempted to do to help her.

1 And I'd like to disclose that I was
2 physically abused as well and people didn't come help.
3 People heard the abuse and did not help in our community,
4 including a leader. Is there that stigma toward helping
5 abused women or is it cultural? I don't know.

6 And then if you call the police they'll take
7 an hour to two hours. Meanwhile, what's happened to you?
8 And the men will straighten out by the time the police
9 come.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay.

11 So my understanding is that the family has
12 come together today to talk about more than one individual
13 and could we start with the first person to suffer this
14 tragedy?

15 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** We'll start with my
16 sister Vi who is just a little over a year younger than me.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Do you know
18 Vi's full legal name?

19 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** Violet Florence
20 Joseph.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so that would be
22 spelled V-I-O-L-E-T, F-L-O-R-E-N-C-E, J-O-S-E-P-H?

23 **—[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** It's Florence
24 Violet.

25 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** Was her first name

1 Florence?

2 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Oh, maybe it was the
3 other way around, yeah.

4 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay.

5 MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE: But she used Violet.

6 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She went by Violet.

8 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: That's quite common.
9 I've seen that before.

10 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah.

11 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay, so Florence ---

12 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Violet.

13 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: --- Violet Joseph.

14 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah.

15 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And does anyone know
16 her date of birth?

17 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: It was on that
18 picture you brought but I couldn't see it.

19 [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: It's March 28th,
20 '49.

21 [MS. JOLENE JOE]: Forty-nine ('49)?

22 [MS. JOLENE JOE]: Oh, that picture was for
23 ---

24 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Forty-nine ('49) or
25 '50?

1 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Nineteen forty-nine
2 (1949), remember?

3 [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: I don't remember.

4 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: It was in March?

5 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah.

6 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: And a year younger?

7 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: It would have been
8 '49.

9 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah, it was just a
10 year. We were just the same age for two weeks so maybe a
11 little over a week here.

12 So it must have been 1949 but if you want to
13 check and take that picture out of the frame her birthday's
14 on that picture you have, Maureen. Her birth date is on
15 that picture you brought.

16 [MS. MAUREEN KNGIHTON]: Oh, okay.

17 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Well, what I'll say
18 for now is I'm going to go with 1949 and if there's any --
19 ever any information that we talk about here -- but because
20 memory is what it is, it doesn't come back to you until a
21 later time, please contact me and I will take the
22 additional information, okay?

23 And so -- sorry?

24 MS. C.K.: I was just coughing, sorry.

25 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Just a cough, okay.

1 Not a problem. We'll just wait a moment for the water.

2 So with Violet, are we here today because
3 she's missing or because she was murdered?

4 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: She was murdered.

5 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: She was murdered?

6 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Was this an instance
8 where she went missing and was found murdered or this is an
9 instance where it was murder?

10 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Spousal murder.

11 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Spousal murder?

12 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah.

13 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And did the police
14 investigate the spouse as a suspect?

15 MS. C.K.: I [don't] think so.

16 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: He was jailed for,
17 well, not very long.

18 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: He got two years.

19 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Two years.

20 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So he was convicted?

21 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: M'hm.

22 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: Yeah.

23 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And what was his name?

24 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: [Husband]. I don't
25 know his middle name.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Last name [*spells last*
2 *name*]?

3 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yes.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And he was sentenced
5 to two years or do you know the full?

6 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** No, I don't know all
7 the details.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** It was a few years?

9 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And what was
11 the date of the murder?

12 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I wouldn't have that
13 -- any detail right now.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Nobody knows?

15 **MS. C.K.:** No. She lived somewhere else and
16 we -- I didn't -- I don't know, yeah.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** It's okay. Where did
18 the murder take place, the city?

19 **MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE:** Here in Port Alberni.
20 Port Alberni.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Port Alberni? Okay,
22 so now what I want to do is I want to turn it over to the
23 family. Whoever feels comfortable speaking just speak when
24 you feel it's time.

25 And what I'm asking you to do is to describe

1 your experience from the start, whatever that may be.
2 Generally with a murder somebody has contacted you to tell
3 you about the murder. So if somebody wants to volunteer to
4 start then we can go that way and just continue from there.

5 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Well, I'll start
6 with what I know but what -- I was a student at the time at
7 University of Victoria. And she was getting a hold of me
8 in concern for her children. She had had internal surgery,
9 injuries, because of being kicked in her abdomen. I don't
10 know how many times. I don't know the detail. But she was
11 kicked by her spouse.

12 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: How many children did
13 she have at the time?

14 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: She had two.

15 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. So she was
16 getting surgery. Do you know where the surgery was?

17 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: I think she was in
18 Nanaimo or Victoria. I'm not sure.

19 Do you know, Betty?

20 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: She was in Port
21 Alberni.

22 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Was she in Port
23 Alberni for her surgery?

24 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: Oh, I don't know.

25 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: She came out of the

1 surgery and then had complications and she passed away in
2 her second hospitalization. And I know now that she was
3 probably aware that she was seriously injured and was
4 worried about her children.

5 And I inquired to -- all about them that day
6 with a social worker, Department of Indian Affairs social
7 worker. And I said, "I feel my sister wants to see me but
8 I don't have the funds to get to her. And I know she's
9 concerned about her children."

10 And he said he can't place them with me
11 because I have not a big enough housing and I don't have a
12 job. I was a student at that time.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember who
14 denied you?

15 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [B.] (phonetic).

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** [L.B.]?

17 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [B.], wasn't that
18 his name?

19 **[MS. JULIE IDA JOSEPH]:** Yeah, [B.].

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** How do you spell it?

21 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** I don't know how
22 it's ---

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** All right.

24 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** It was as B though.

25 **[MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]:** Yeah, it's a

1 (inaudible).

2 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Like, [B.]? I don't
3 know.

4 [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: [L.B.].

5 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: [L.]?

6 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: [L.]? [L.B.].

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: For now I'm going to
8 go with *[spells name]* unless anybody thinks there's a
9 better spelling.

10 [MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]: That sounds more
11 close to it.

12 [MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]: The way he said his
13 name, eh?

14 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so [L.] was --
15 sorry, was with which institution?

16 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: He's -- he was still
17 with the Department of Indian Affairs.

18 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And he denied you
19 taking ---

20 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: He denied me taking
21 ---

22 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: --- care of the
23 children?

24 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: I wanted to try keep
25 them together, yeah. I was raising my own toddlers by

1 then.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know what
3 happened to the children since you were unable to take care
4 of them?

5 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** They were adopted by
6 separate families. Mind you, they were Native families
7 from the Ucluelet area where I eventually was my marriage
8 tribe. But I really hurt because I've heard they were both
9 sexually abused even in those Native homes.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you hear that from
11 the children themselves?

12 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** M'hm.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so they were
14 adopted after Violet's death?

15 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** M'hm. They were
16 legally adopted. It was in their foster home.

17 My parents also tried to keep [Child 1] but
18 -- the daughter -- but they were told they were too old to
19 adopt children. And they were very hurt. She had -- they
20 took her away from them.

21 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** He was the social
22 worker for Nitnaht, [L.B.]. He was the one that went down
23 there to investigate. So he was listening to what other
24 people said because I was there too. I was not quite 18
25 because I remember thinking too, hey, I want to keep her

1 because she was with me a lot because I was still at home.
2 I was the youngest sister.

3 But that's another worry of mine too, is
4 what happens on the reserve? Who decides who takes,
5 apprehends? Who gets apprehended?

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So your parents and
7 Violet's parents, they wanted to adopt one of the girls. I
8 just need to get the names. So your parents' names?

9 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Robert Joseph.

10 **[MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]:** Senior.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Robert Joseph Senior.

12 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah, Senior.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And your mother?

14 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Edith Joseph.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what was the name
16 of the grandchild they tried to adopt?

17 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [Child 1]. Her
18 legal name, her adoptive name became [Child 1].

19 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Was she [Child 1's
20 middle name]?

21 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Huh?

22 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Was she [Child 1's
23 middle name]?

24 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [Child 1's middle
25 name], I think, is her middle name. [Child 1].

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And [Child 1], is it
2 with a [*spells name*]?

3 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [*spells name*].

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** [*spells name*]?

5 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [*spells first name*],
6 yeah.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** [Child 1's middle
8 name] as it is normally spelled? And do you know how to
9 spell her current legal name?

10 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [*spells last name*].

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** [*spells last name*].

12 And so you had said that your parents were denied because
13 they were too old?

14 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** M'hm.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know who
16 denied?

17 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** [L.B.] denied them.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know how old
19 your parents were at this time?

20 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I don't know. What
21 would they have been?

22 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Well, I think I was
23 17 then.

24 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah.

25 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Forty-two ('42),

1 '52. Probably 59.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So they were about 59
3 years old?

4 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Yeah.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I know I asked the
6 date. Do you know the year or even the month when your
7 sister died?

8 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Any idea? I was in
9 school then so it would have been in between September and
10 April for sure. But I don't know.

11 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** (Inaudible) it was
12 middle of winter during the ---

13 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** It was winter of?

15 **[MS JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Well, somewhere
16 anyway in winter.

17 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah, winter of 70 -
18 - 19 -- between '74 and '78 was my B.A. or ---

19 **MS. C.K.:** (Inaudible) the only thing I felt
20 in my heart then.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Nineteen seventy-four
22 (1974) to '78?

23 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Around there, yeah.
24 Seventy-five (75), I think.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I can't remember.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay.

2 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** I was still in high
3 school.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so the -- your
5 parents, they would have been in their late fifties? Did
6 anybody else in the family offer to adopt the children?

7 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Not that I know of.
8 I don't know any details.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And so how did
10 you come to know that she had died? Who contacted you?

11 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I can't recall. It
12 probably was Mom, my mother.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Was it a family member
14 for everybody? Was it family for everybody that was there
15 to be told that Violet had died or was it ever an official
16 from the government or the police, that informed you?

17 **MS. C.K.:** Seems like it was unofficial. I
18 mean, I heard way after through the family.

19 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah, it was just
20 family.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. So what
22 happened after she died with respect to an investigation?
23 Does anybody remember how it was investigated? Did anybody
24 talk to the police directly? Did the police ever come
25 asking?

1 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: I wasn't here.

2 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: They never came and
3 asked me and I seem to remember being in the taxi that went
4 to the hospital with her because she took herself to the
5 hospital and was leaned over. She was in lots of pain.

6 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So when she was
7 attacked she contacted you?

8 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: I may have been
9 there because I used to stay there but I can't remember.

10 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: M'hm. And did you
11 stay at the hospital with her?

12 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: I seem to remember
13 it, yeah.

14 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Yeah? Do you ever
15 remember the police visiting her at the hospital?

16 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: She couldn't talk.
17 She was taped. Her eyes were taped shut and her mouth was
18 shut.

19 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Oh.

20 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: Her arms were taped
21 down.

22 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. Do you remember
23 if this was the first time she had to go or was this
24 because of the complications after?

25 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: Complications after

1 the operation, yes.

2 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: I have to remember
3 her the first time she was in the hospital. She was
4 imagining her son was with her. She said, "I'm okay.
5 [Child 2] is here." She was hallucinating.

6 Do you remember that in her -- when you went
7 to see Vi, Betty? She's saying -- laying there, you said,
8 and she said, "It's okay. [Child 2] is here."

9 MS. BETTY KNIGHTON: Oh, gee.

10 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Do you remember any
11 police coming at that time?

12 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So did anybody have
13 any knowledge of the police investigation? No? Okay.

14 And does anybody remember how her husband
15 came to be charged?

16 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Probably Vi once
17 reported him as the person that kicked her the first time
18 in the hospital.

19 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay.

20 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah. They knew
21 right -- and it seemed to be known who had done that, that
22 he had done it.

23 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. Did anybody
24 attend the trial from the family?

25 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: I didn't know when

1 it was or anything.

2 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: I did but I didn't
3 remember anything.

4 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay, don't remember
5 any of the details?

6 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: No.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you remember if you
8 felt that you had proper access to be able to understand
9 what was happening at the trial? Did anybody assist you in
10 any way?

11 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: No, no. That was -
12 --

13 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Did you speak to any
14 of the lawyers?

15 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: --- 2016 or '17.
16 No. I didn't.

17 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Were any of your
18 family that aren't here with us today -- did any other
19 family attend the trial?

20 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: I don't remember.

21 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Not that you can
22 recall? Okay. And so when [Husband] was sentenced did
23 anybody tell anybody in the family about that? Was there
24 any communication about his sentencing?

25 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: I heard somehow, by

1 probably family, that he had been sentenced but for how
2 long, I wasn't told how long.

3 **MS. C.K.:** No.

4 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** No, we didn't even
5 have phones at home.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm. Right, but
7 nobody ever came to tell you anything?

8 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** No.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Are you okay?

10 **MS. C.K.:** Yeah. This thing fell.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, just want to
12 make sure you're not hurt.

13 **MS. C.K.:** Thank you.

14 **[MS. BERNICE JOSEPH]:** Where she came from
15 had only minor communication systems in probably just the
16 main office, eh ---

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

18 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** --- right at that
19 time.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you have any --
21 when did you find out that he had been released?

22 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I didn't find out.
23 I just heard that he was in an extended care now.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Nobody heard
25 that he was released?

1 [MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]: No.

2 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so you found out
3 that he was out how much later?

4 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Not til -- I didn't
5 hear anything about his incarceration or nothing, only that
6 it was two years and that he was in -- now in [Assisted
7 living facility 1].

8 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: M'hm.

9 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: And he has
10 breakdowns about the whole incident. And I have a daughter
11 that works there occasionally so if he recalls the incident
12 and has -- I don't know what happens but it's ---

13 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So he's still alive?

14 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yeah.

15 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Where is he in
16 extended care?

17 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: It's called -- it's
18 [Assisted living facility 1].

19 [MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]: [Assisted living
20 facility 1].

21 [MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]: It's [Assisted
22 living facility 1].

23 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: [Assisted living
24 facility 1]? And that's located in which city, [City 1]?

25 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Yes, [City 1].

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so Violet was
2 living with a man who was violent to her at least once.
3 But what was that home life like before her death? Was she
4 in an ongoing domestic violent -- domestic violence
5 relationship? Does anybody have anything to say about
6 that?

7 **MS. C.K.:** She lived far away so I ---

8 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** She never reported
9 it. I didn't even know she was with him. I don't think
10 she'd been even with him very long. It's not the father of
11 her children. I only heard of her being with him when the
12 incident happened.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What about her
14 circumstances? What about Violet's circumstances made her
15 susceptible to violence? And in saying that, you know, as
16 an example, oftentimes people that have been through
17 residential schools or religious day schools, they've been
18 exposed to violence as children; there are lots of systemic
19 failings that can have occurred that set people up to be
20 vulnerable. Did Violet -- was Violet in that kind of a
21 position? Had she ---

22 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I would say that our
23 time, our experience of the residential school and the
24 constant flailing and strappings and punishment ---

25 **MS. C.K.:** Yes.

1 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** --- and then we went
2 home to my father who was also abusive when he -- he wasn't
3 a chronic alcoholic but he went on binges and we witnessed
4 the violence between our parents as well.

5 So she was susceptible to her level of what
6 -- we had a very limited gauge about what is violence, what
7 is not right, and what's wrong because of our experience
8 with the residential school and we accepted everything as
9 what -- as parenting was. The standard was very limited.

10 Maybe at that time it was rampant in the
11 violence level. The alcoholism, the violence, was rampant
12 at that time, of my parents' time.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did your parents
14 attend at residential school as well?

15 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Just my mother. She
16 went all the way to the mainland to ---

17 **[MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]:** Coqualeetza.

18 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** --- Coqualeetza
19 Residential School.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know how to
21 spell ---

22 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** It was in the
23 twenties, I think.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Sorry?

25 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** In the twenties, I

1 guess.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** In the twenties?

3 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Yes.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know how to
5 spell that residential school?

6 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I think it starts
7 with a C.

8 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** K-O-K?

9 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Huh?

10 **[MS. JULIA IDA JOSEPH]:** Isn't it K-O-K?

11 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Maybe it's K.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** K-O-K?

13 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** A-L.

14 **MS. MELODY CASELLA:** Is that the one in
15 Chilliwack?

16 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah.

17 **MS. MELODY CASELLA:** It's C-O-Q-U-A-L-E-E-T-
18 Z-A, Coqualeetza.

19 **[MS. JOLENE JOE]:** Would you take a five-
20 minute break?

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** For the record, that's

22 ---

23 **[MS. JOLENE JOE]:** (Inaudible) a five-minute
24 break?

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melody Casella

1 (phonetic), National Inquiry Health Coordinator.

2 Could you spell that one more time?

3 **MS. MELODY CASELLA:** C-O-Q-U-A-L-E-E-T-Z-A.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Clearly nobody was
5 going to spell that right. Thank you, Melody.

6 **MS. MELODY CASELLA:** My dad has worked up
7 there.

8 **MS. JOLENE JOE:** Can we get a five-minute
9 break please?

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Yes, now is an okay
11 time. I'll just pause the recordings.

12 --- Upon recessing

13 --- Upon resuming

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, we're back from
15 a five-minute break.

16 So before the break we were talking about
17 some of the contributors to Violet's situation. And your
18 father was abusive and had an alcohol problem. Violet
19 attended residential school. Your mother attended
20 residential school.

21 Which residential school did Violet attend?

22 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Port Alberni. Here.

23 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** AIRS, Alberni Indian
24 Residential School. I guess we all did, eh? Except [C.K.]
25 was in the TB hospital.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And did any of
2 you ever talk with Violet about her experience during
3 residential school? No?

4 **[MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]:** She was closer to her
5 than me. We were already on our own, me and my older
6 sister.

7 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** All I know is, she
8 was rebellious. She had the nerve to run away. I could
9 never do that. She used to just be with friends and then
10 face the punishment when you come back, when you get
11 caught.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, and would you
13 expect that your experience in residential school was
14 similar to hers?

15 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** M'hm.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So what types of
17 violence would you have experienced in residential school?

18 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** We experienced
19 severe discipline. Crowded dormitories meant it was easy.
20 At times, if we didn't confess who was caught or was out of
21 bed or was talking, the entire dorm would get spanked on
22 the bare bottom. Or if nobody confessed who stole
23 somebody's silly bag of cookies or something, if you ate
24 the cookies too you got strapped on the hand. I'm just
25 telling you what I recall.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

2 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I got strapped the
3 very first night I was there because I didn't understand
4 that you weren't supposed to be going to the washroom when
5 the lights were out already. And I was caught jumping back
6 into bed. And I had just what I thought was the ugliest
7 nightie on. Ripped off me and just strap, strap, strap
8 about 20 times and I just rolled and rolled and rolled.

9 And how many times, how many people were
10 strapped like that, I don't know. I've seen people
11 strapped just because they dumped the sock bag out and made
12 a mess. It was called a mess and they got strapped.

13 Washing stairs down top to bottom for
14 punishment.

15 We witnessed the men fighting in the dining
16 rooms with the male supervisors. We witnessed our -- some
17 of our senior women fighting each other, eh? There were
18 violence against each other.

19 And despite this punishment, my sister had
20 the guts to run away and so did my brother, one of them.
21 And we lost that protection. Sometimes men have more
22 respect for you when they know you have your brothers
23 watching over. And we lost all -- we lost four of our
24 brothers, and only the youngest one left.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And when you say you

1 "lost" your brothers, how did that happen?

2 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: They passed away in
3 two drownings because of spousal troubles. A brother, a
4 younger brother was hit on the highway. He was a very
5 radical -- what would you call -- he was ---

6 [MS. BETTY KNIGHTON]: He belonged to the
7 American Indian Movement.

8 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: American Indian
9 Movement, yeah. So he was always afraid that he was on a
10 hit list of some kind. And that was Larry.

11 Who am I missing? Oh, my brother committed
12 suicide; the most senior brother committed suicide with a
13 gun. So yeah. We lost that kind of security of our
14 brothers.

15 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So for Violet, was
16 there anything that might have helped her avoid this
17 tragedy in her life? What should have happened, what
18 didn't happen that should have happened?

19 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Someone reporting
20 that that fellow was violent, maybe from his own community
21 that she should maybe not be with him.

22 I don't know if I -- if there's a backlash
23 involved with Anne's death [*Registrar's note: see Statement*
24 *Volume 178(b)*] but my own cousins were acting cold
25 somewhere after the incident. And we were swearing we were

1 going to follow up because there was a video for the
2 ~~(inaudible)~~ [Anne's death]. You could tell by her bruises
3 that they were old. And she had already been in car
4 accidents with this fellow and yet he was still beating
5 her.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so to return to
7 Violet for a moment, it sounds like she was a strong person
8 ---

9 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** Yeah.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** --- the way you
11 describe her. What were her strengths and her resiliencies
12 as a person?

13 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I think she spoke up
14 when there were injustices. I remember her speaking up to
15 our leadership in Nitinaht. And they were kind of -- they
16 liked to believe the community, the leadership we had at
17 her time. And talk was in very harsh voices and she wasn't
18 afraid to voice her opinion.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Just a couple more
20 questions about Violet. Do you have any hope that police -
21 --

22 **[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** Just when you're
23 talking about her resilience and what she had to
24 contribute, she was with my mom one time.

25 My mom came -- my mom was there and she had

1 started asking me what had happened. I was raped by my
2 neighbour with a knife.

3 And I told my mom and my Auntie Vi was
4 there. And she said, "Betsy, we got to go phone the cops.
5 Your daughter was raped. We have to tell them," she said.

6 So then that -- and that day she found there
7 was just radio phones and I don't know where they went. I
8 didn't understand what they were doing or anything. But my
9 Auntie Vi was the one that pulled her out and said, "We
10 have to report this to the cops."

11 So for me, that was -- she wanted to protect
12 me. She wanted to give me justice. And so my bond with
13 her got really close. I always wanted to be with her after
14 that because she felt like my protector.

15 And there, that's when I started doing
16 things for her too. I wanted to give back to her. I
17 thought I was helping her. I used to babysit for her not
18 realizing that I was only enabling her to go out and drink.

19 So somewhere along the line she knew that
20 what had happened was wrong, illegal, and wanted justice
21 done.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** How old were you when
23 this happened?

24 **[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** About 11.

25 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** In those days the

1 police didn't even come either. They'd just sit back.

2 [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: They did.

3 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: Did they?

4 [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: Not right away but
5 they did.

6 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Before I move on I
7 just want to be sure; does anybody else have a story about
8 Violet, about her strength, about her resiliency?

9 [MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]: I always admired how
10 she -- she'd quit school and my fear was that I had to get
11 education for security. But she was able to just leave.
12 But then she became good at traditional, like, fish cutting
13 and basket weaving and not all of us can do that. But she
14 had that kind of -- she didn't appear to be patient but she
15 did learn a lot of traditional things that I didn't learn
16 myself.

17 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Thank you.

18 One last question. Does anybody have any
19 documents in their possession in relation to Violet's
20 murder?

21 MS. C.K.: Any documents on what?

22 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Any documents about
23 Violet's murder in terms of reports by police, coroners,
24 hospital records?

25 MS. C.K.: I didn't get anything.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

2 **MS. C.K.:** Because they didn't report
3 anything. I think that we just heard about it through
4 (inaudible).

5 **[MS. BERNICE TOUCHIE]:** I think all of the
6 documents were sent to the band, to the band office, and a
7 lot of times did not -- they never reached the families
8 because I understood that my father's death certificate was
9 sent there but we never got it. Things like never reached
10 the families.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Before we move
12 on is there anything else anybody would like to say about
13 Violet? Are there any questions that I should have asked
14 that I overlooked, or any other information that you want
15 to share about Violet?

16 **MS. C.K.:** Violet (inaudible) what went on.
17 We were kind of helpless. Those (inaudible) here
18 (inaudible) tell us way after. So we can't even get to
19 find help.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. As we agreed at
21 the five-minute break, we'll pause now so that everybody
22 can have lunch.

23

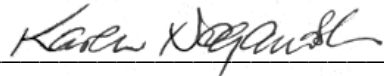
24 --- Upon adjourning

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Karen Noganosh, 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.



Karen Noganosh

September 4, 2017