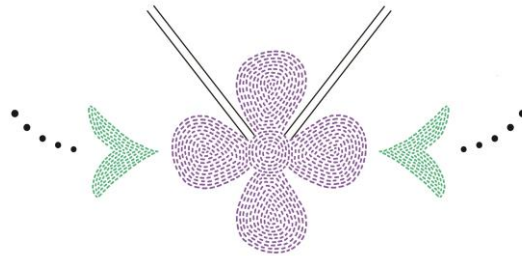


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Kuujjuaq, Quebec**



PUBLIC

Wednesday August 1, 2018

Statement - Volume 439

**Jimmy Thomassie,
In relation to Kitty Thomassie**

**Statement gathered by Lillian Lundrigan,
Commission Counsel**

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Statement gatherer: Lillian Lundrigan

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Upon commencing at 2:45 p.m.

2 Kuujjuaq, Nunavut

3 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Today is August 1,
4 2018 we are in Kuujjuaq for a statement gathering. My
5 name is Lillian Aglukark Lundrigan here for MMIWG.

6 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Jimmy Thomassie from
7 Kangirsuk I work for [Company]. I only work when I get
8 called out. (inaudible) Support worker.

9 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Thank you, think I
10 got everything.

11 *(Off-the-record discussion omitted)*

12 So you can start, (Inuktitut). So you can start by telling
13 us who it is you're talking about?

14 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** My little sister Kitty
15 Thomassie, she had lost her life on February 5.

16 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay, February 5. So
17 now what year?

18 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** 2006.

19 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. Go ahead and
20 tell your story.

21 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I remember I was
22 living at [L.]'s place, a lot of people were drunk, my
23 grandmother had to look after [Escort], she was an escort,
24 poor [L.]. When the night guard was there I felt there was
25 something wrong, so I called my niece. I was told there was

**Jimmy Thomassie
(Kitty Thomassie)**

1 a fight, that there was a lot of commotion going on and was
2 told to go check what was happening. I walked in there was
3 lots of blood in the living room, the stovetop was broken;
4 the floor was full of blood. You can see the knife on the
5 floor around the glass. I don't remember what I was wearing
6 but I could see the knife. When I walked in I didn't see
7 anybody. I went to the clinic at the hospital but I didn't
8 go to for her, I went for my sister's son, her son was
9 beaten. I had two kids with me, [Child 1] and [Child 2]. I
10 had the two kids with me. When I walked in again I finally
11 realized the blood was dry blood. The trail of blood was
12 going towards the back of the house, I followed the trail,
13 there was a king size bed that was put outside. I panicked,
14 the bed was folded, so I grabbed a hammer, used the end of
15 the hammer to unfold the bed. Using the hammer I touched
16 the body, but the body did not move. One child ran away and
17 the other one said, "Why is the body there?" We were both
18 in shock. My father taught us not to fight back when we are
19 attacked and that's what we were taught. Not to fight back.
20 I hit the body once, I didn't know what to do, I didn't
21 know how to react. I thought to call the police, but
22 someone else was already dealing with the police. Someone
23 else was also dealing with a different murder that same
24 evening. The police were dealing with two murders and the
25 police said to send the loved one over so the loved one can

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(Kitty Thomassie)

3

1 be notified. I didn't sleep at all that night, I was
2 visiting here and there but I lost my sleep. There was a
3 reverend in Mitsirak I went to see and asked the reverend
4 to pray for me. I know that I will see him some day and
5 that day will come close, the judgement day will come and
6 the guy will get judged. On the court date, the guy went to
7 court, his mother was there. He was standing up but I could
8 not look at him. That's what happened to me. The guy that
9 killed my sister had received a life sentence. 20 years, no
10 parole for life. The lawyer - if I wanted information one
11 week later, I was told about his sentence. That's what
12 happened to me, I did not add anything or change anything
13 because I don't want to keep going back to tell the story.
14 That's my story, and that's the story I wanted to tell.

15 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** And it's about your
16 sister?

17 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes.

18 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Can I ask you
19 questions?

20 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes, you may.

21 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Your sister was
22 murdered on February 5, 2006. Who was the person that
23 killed her?

24 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Samwillie Grey.

25 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Samwillie...?

1 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Samwillie Grey. It was
2 in 2006, not in 2005.

3 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** I have 2006. Okay.
4 Samwillie Grey?

5 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Grey, yes.

6 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Grey. When he was
7 charged, what was he charged with? Manslaughter or second-
8 degree murder or first-degree?

9 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Manslaughter.

10 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Manslaughter?

11 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** That's what he was
12 charged with.

13 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. How did it
14 happen? What was the reason?

15 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** He got jealous; it was
16 the jealousy that got to him when he was drunk, that much I
17 remember.

18 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Was that her partner
19 or...?

20 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah, her partner, for
21 a long time.

22 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Partner like common-
23 law? Boyfriend, girlfriend?

24 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah, yeah.

25 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

1 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** When he killed her she
2 was pregnant.

3 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Your sister? When
4 your sister was murdered?

5 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah, he stabbed her
6 17 times.

7 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** 17?

8 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah.

9 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. How old was
10 your sister?

11 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I think she was born
12 in '72.

13 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Do they have
14 children?

15 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah, they were taken
16 by their fathers; one in Montreal, she had adopted
17 children, one lives in town in Kangirsuk, he lives with his
18 adoptive father [Father 1]. She also had an adoptive
19 daughter [Daughter 1].

20 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** [Daughter 1]?

21 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes.

22 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** The whole time they
23 were together, your sister with her boyfriend, was he
24 abusive?

25 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I don't know, I've

1 never noticed it before, it was never obvious and I don't
2 remember a lot of it before but I've never noticed him
3 being abusive.

4 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Were they drunk when
5 it happened? Was your sister drunk?

6 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Uhh.

7 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** I guess she didn't
8 drink because she was expecting a baby.

9 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** They were staying at
10 my parents'; my mother was watching. And her daughter had
11 also witnessed it.

12 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** They were watching?

13 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes, she witnessed the
14 beating where the leg of the table, where the metal is,
15 being used as a weapon. That's how he started.

16 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Why did he do what
17 he did? Simonie, Samwillie?

18 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Samwillie,
19 (unintelligible) I don't know what triggered it he must
20 have had a lot of anger.

21 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** He'll be in prison
22 for 20 years?

23 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah, no parole for
24 life apparently.

25 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** When was he

1 arrested?

2 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** He was picked up 3
3 days later. He was sent to AMS then was sentenced 2 years
4 later.

5 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** In 2008 he was
6 sentenced?

7 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah.

8 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. Can you spell
9 the name? We're going to look it up on court document. How
10 do you spell Samwillie's name? Samwillie?

11 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Samwillie.

12 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** S-A-M...

13 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** W-I-L-L-I-E.

14 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** E. Okay. Grey?

15 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah.

16 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. We are going
17 to look into court records.

18 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah.

19 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** We are going to look
20 into the written documents from the court dates we will
21 also look for the sentencing documents.

22 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah.

23 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** That's what we are
24 going to look into for part of the report.

25 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Okay.

1 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Is that all you
2 wanted to say? Do you have anything else to add?

3 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** No, what I had here
4 was all I wanted to say.

5 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Can I ask you how it
6 has affected your life? With you, your mother, her
7 daughter? How is her daughter?

8 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Her daughter [Daughter
9 2] was sent to her father in Montreal. They wanted her to
10 forget what happened. It took her a long time to forget.

11 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** How old was
12 [Daughter 2]?

13 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I don't remember.

14 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** How big was she? Was
15 she [*uses hand to measure*].

16 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** She was about this
17 height [*uses hand to measure*]. She was in school.

18 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** In kindergarten?

19 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yeah, she was going to
20 start kindergarten.

21 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Do you see her?

22 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** She left yesterday, I
23 pick her up. I work for the [Airline 1] so I get airline
24 discount so I pick her up.

25 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** How is she?

Jimmy Thomassie
(Kitty Thomassie)

1 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** She is fine, she is
2 always happy to see me, she feels safe with me. I'll be
3 picking her up on the 17th. My job is to park the planes for
4 [Airline 1].

5 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Oh okay.

6 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** It's a risky job but
7 I'm also applying for a job with housing as a maintenance
8 worker. I also started working as a recreation coordinator
9 to help the youth, to keep them out of trouble. I had to
10 quit my job when I was working at [Airline 1], education
11 department asked me if I wanted to come back and work for
12 them. But right now I am just working for [Airline 2].

13 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

14 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** For now I have a job
15 with them as an emergency services for [Airline 2].

16 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** What about your
17 mother? She was watching of what happened, how is your
18 mother?

19 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** She is fine, she has
20 now passed away on 2009.

21 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Did she pass away?

22 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** It was on August 6,
23 2009. She was put in to a senior home, so that she will
24 have time to deal with her emotions. She comes back and
25 does not be there, goes back there.

1 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

2 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Although she comes
3 back from Kangiqsuk, she told us that she was uncomfortable
4 with the questions she was asked. And she was asked if her
5 son was taking money from us when he was angry and my
6 mother was shocked to hear. She told them to leave if you
7 will ask questions. That is what she told me.

8 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

9 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** She said that my son
10 is not like that. She was trying to make them understand. I
11 do not steal from my parents or anything.

12 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

13 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Everybody could see
14 me, I do not steal. It is not my living.

15 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

16 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Work, safety and that
17 is what I do.

18 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes, I wonder why
19 someone would say that? What do you think about it?

20 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I do not really
21 understand your question.

22 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Why do you think
23 they would say something like that to your mom?

24 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I don't know. I don't
25 understand that. I do not know why.

1 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** They said things
2 that are not true.

3 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes.

4 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Why are they
5 thinking like that?

6 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes. What are you
7 doing? My son does not do that. That is what my mother
8 said.

9 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** How many more
10 brothers and sisters do you have?

11 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** There are two now, my
12 sister, big sister. She has two kids. But they are big now.
13 And I have a little sister who has four kids.

14 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay

15 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** [Sister 1]

16 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Who?

17 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** [Sister 1]

18 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** [Sister 1]? Okay. Do
19 you have any brothers? Brothers?

20 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** The one, he has passed
21 on, the one, I did not mention because I do not really
22 remember him. He passed on having a seizure. I mean I have
23 lost five relatives and the fifth one was Kitty. My five
24 relatives all passed away. My sister Rhoda Tumasie was
25 injured by the brain, her head was crushed.

1 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes.

2 JIMMY THOMASSIE: My mother was sick
3 here. My father was sick in Kangiqsuk.

4 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay

5 JIMMY THOMASSIE: And Kitty was
6 murdered.

LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Kitty.

7 JIMMY THOMASSIE: It is that way.

8 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you have proper
9 support in Nunavut? Mental health worker?

10 JIMMY THOMASSIE: I am not using that
11 myself; that I want to forget. I have tried to play sports.
12 Like jogging, water ball, floor hockey. I am not an ice
13 hockey player. I like going outdoors. I am a hunter but I
14 do not have hunting equipment although I am a hunter.

15 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes. If you wanted
16 help in your community, is there someone there to help? Is
17 there something?

18 JIMMY THOMASSIE: I am not aware of
19 anything like that but when you are asking questions, this
20 is my first time.

21 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes. Okay.

22 JIMMY THOMASSIE: This is my first time.
23 It's okay. I have never been asked any kind of questions
24 before but when they were making a statement, to see if
25 they are correct and having to accept it.

1 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes.

2 JIMMY THOMASSIE: That is the only one.

3 Now, try to see that this is the first time I have ever
4 been interviewed.

5 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes. Trying to get
6 help, there will be some help from here, from the inquiry
7 and working with them, would you use it? For support?

8 JIMMY THOMASSIE: For me, I want to help
9 in being supportive.

10 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes.

11 JIMMY THOMASSIE: How can I say this? I
12 want to help and support. Just tell my fellow people in a
13 good way. If you do this, just stay where you are. If you
14 are doing this, you will be comfortable. I want to tell
15 them in a good way.

16 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes.

17 JIMMY THOMASSIE: I was like that. I was
18 a gym teacher after that because I didn't want kids to get
19 involved. They are too (inaudible), although they are
20 playing and lose a game. Just keep them all the same.

21 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes.

22 JIMMY THOMASSIE: My job was a gym
23 teacher

24 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes. How is it? Is
25 it continuing? Are you still continuing?

1 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Right now I have moved
2 to (inaudible).

3 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes. Although you
4 don't want to help them, are you just helping them?

5 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes. If you stop now
6 asking questions.

7 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Do you want to stop?

8 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** What?

9 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Do you want to stop?

10 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes. I am tired.

11 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Your sister Kitty.
12 Your sister who was Kitty Thomassie. Her boyfriend was
13 Samwillie Grey. Their names, if their name is written the
14 correct way.

15 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes.

16 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** If you do not have
17 any questions, if I can talk to you about the
18 recommendation, it would be your recommendations. It would
19 be assessed and how it would be forward to the inquiry. The
20 commissioners want to hear what people have to say. What
21 would be your recommendation and how it can be corrected
22 about Inuit? They go through it and they are a lot of them.
23 The people who have been asked questions.

24 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I have been to another
25 community. I went to Inukjuak when they were learning how

Jimmy Thomassie
(Kitty Thomassie)

1 to hunt. If it was certainly like that, I would attend one,
2 and if I was asked, I would say yes. The event was in
3 Montreal.

4 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

5 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** If there is any, I
6 could attend. It would be okay for a visit. And I would
7 talk the same way.

8 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

9 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I think it would help
10 if, on this one, if there was one like that, I would attend
11 and I don't mind.

12 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Your sister was
13 murdered; how or what, what, what's your message? With
14 respect to your sister's murder and what happened to her?
15 To people, how do you want them to understand? Your
16 feeling, what you went through? Is that your message?

17 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** My father told me
18 before that this person is killed, the person is killed.
19 The person who did it, and if I see this. I would not kill
20 the person. The person will not come back. The person who
21 is killed will not come back. I am not responsible. Because
22 he will be taken care of by somebody else. This is what I
23 am saying. I would not want to be taken, even by the
24 police, by the courts. He would not give back if I take
25 him.

1 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay, like revenge?

2 JIMMY THOMASSIE: Yes

3 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: This revenge.

4 JIMMY THOMASSIE: It's nothing.

5 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: We are not allowed
6 to use it. Okay.

7 JIMMY THOMASSIE: For example, a baby
8 does this and forgets. That is the way we have to do it
9 too.

10 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes. Okay.

11 JIMMY THOMASSIE: They forget, they want
12 to hold something and they forget. They go to other things.
13 That is how we are supposed to do it too.

14 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. I understand.
15 One more question.

16 JIMMY THOMASSIE: Yes.

17 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: How would you use
18 about the healing? For healing? What would you suggest as
19 for people to heal from? The ones that are beaten up. Their
20 children being murdered. There are a lot of people who are
21 hurting inside them. How would you suggest for them to
22 heal? How would you suggest they...?

23 JIMMY THOMASSIE: Going forward. And
24 trying to get your life back. From going to places like
25 going to church every week. By doing that, it is also a

1 healing process.

2 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

3 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** By going to church,
4 you're able to start healing. If you say that you want to
5 do this, the church is the only place that you can use.

6 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

7 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Although you think
8 that it's not useful, it is the place to be.

9 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

10 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** I have tried healing
11 and the church was the only place to go.

12 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. If you want to
13 add more, you can add some more if you want.

14 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** No.

15 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** If want to finish up
16 or if you want to write the emotions you have. If you want
17 to write, you can give it to us and we can put your writing
18 to the statement.

19 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes.

20 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** If you feel you want
21 to share some more by writing. You can write and we can
22 take it and add it to the statement. It's up to you.

23 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Okay, I just want to
24 know if I will be alright and I was not prepared but I
25 wanted to work on the statement.

Jimmy Thomassie
(Kitty Thomassie)

1 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Well, you just came
2 in too, so the next few hours, when you are here, if you
3 wanted to write and give them to me and we will put it in
4 the statement. It is up to you.

5 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Maybe tomorrow morning
6 when I am calm.

7 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes. Absolutely.

8 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** And when I am rested
9 and have eaten breakfast, it is better that way.

10 **LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes, it is
11 understandable. So, we can finish up now.

12 **JIMMY THOMASSIE:** Yes.

13 Upon concluding at 3:10 p.m.

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Kesha Allurut, Translator, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript and translation of the digital audio provided in this matter.



Name: Kesha Allurut

Date: March 14, 2019