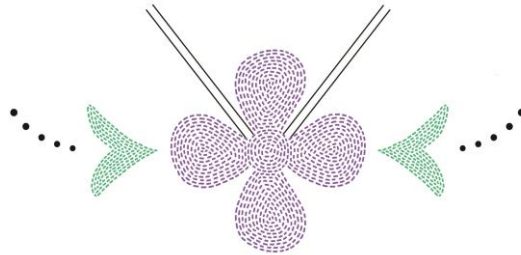


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Fort Garry Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba**



PUBLIC

Wednesday October 3, 2018

Statement - Volume 488

**A.F.,
In relation to Cherisse Houle**

Statement gathered by Pamela Vernaus

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II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names except that of Cherisse Houle be rendered anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. This order was made April 1st, 2019.

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Statement Gatherer: Pamela Vernaus

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Winnipeg, Manitoba

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

3 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Good morning. We are here
4 today with the National Inquiry in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Today's
5 date is October 3rd, 2018. It's about 10 a.m. I'm the statement
6 gatherer. My name is Pamela Vernaus, and I'm here with...

7 **MR. K.C.:** [Traditional name].

8 **MS. A.F.:** [A.F.].

9 **MS. S.M.:** [S.M.], health support.

10 **MR. K.M.:** And my baptismal name is [K.C.] from
11 Sagkeeng First Nation. I'm honoured and blessed to be with
12 [A.F.].

13 **MS. A.F.:** That's it?

14 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** You're good.

15 **MR. K.C.:** M'hm.

16 **MS. A.F.:** Now we talk -- now I talk?

17 **MR. K.C.:** M'hm.

18 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah, and feel free to talk.

19 **MS. A.F.:** Okay.

20 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** If you need to take a break,
21 or -- like I said --

22 **MS. A.F.:** No, I'll start.

23 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay.

24 **MS. A.F.:** Well, I'll start when I was a kid, and
25 then I'll just work my way up from there. I'm -- I have lots of

1 hatred from when I was a kid because of what happened to me when
2 I was a baby. My mom had to choose between me and my
3 sister -- no, me and my sister or this guy my mom was with, so
4 she chose him, and then I had to go live with my aunty and my
5 uncle, and my sister had to go live with her grandpa, so we were
6 raised -- well, she was raised with her -- our grandpa all her
7 life until he passed away, and then I was raised by my aunt and
8 my uncle off and on.

9 Soon, I got a little bit older, and I was
10 starting to see my mom and my step-dad a little often, and my
11 first experience with my step-dad wasn't good because he sexually
12 molested me a few times, and I tried to tell my mom what
13 happened, but she wouldn't believe me. She kept picking his
14 side.

15 So my aunty and my uncle and my family, my aunt
16 and uncles, they were having a party one night, and I -- I was
17 living with my aunty at the time, and they sent me -- well, they
18 told me to go to bed because -- I guess it was bedtime. I can't
19 remember exactly how old I was, but -- so I went and slept in my
20 aunty and my uncle's room, and that's when my step-dad came up
21 there and molested me, so I -- I ended up screaming. I told my
22 aunt and my uncle what he did. They ended up getting into a
23 fight because of it, and I -- I don't know exactly what happened
24 after that, but I have lots of experiences being sexually
25 molested by, well, lots of my family -- male family members in

1 my -- in my family, so it -- it really took effect of my life.

2 As I was growing up to be a teenager, I started
3 drinking by the age of 12, and -- I was back with my mom by then,
4 but I got my first assault charge against my mom when I was 12, I
5 think, and then I just -- my life went downhill from there. I
6 was constantly in and out of jail. By then, I was hanging around
7 with gang people, and I was back here in the city. I was doing
8 drugs -- well, smoking weed and drinking.

9 And then I think by the time I turned the age of
10 16, I got pregnant with my first son, and I kind of straightened
11 out a little bit, but then -- I don't know. I started hanging
12 around with, like, the bigger gang members, and I just tried my
13 first line of coke -- cocaine, and then I started working on the
14 streets, and I was actually dealing with CFS because -- because I
15 was just a child myself having a child.

16 So I was with -- working with CFS because of my
17 son, and I had to call them one day because my son was crying in
18 his bedroom, and I was too busy smoking crack in my bathroom. So
19 they showed up and they took him away, and then they sent me to
20 treatment, but treatment wasn't -- didn't want to work that time,
21 and I've been in and out of so many treatment centres to get my
22 son back, but I think it was just because I was so young, and I
23 just didn't want to -- I just wanted to party, and being a single
24 mom was really hard.

25 I remember this New Year's, I was with his

1 dad -- this is when he was still a baby. I tried my first hoot
2 of crack cocaine. I had to beg them for it; didn't want to give
3 me it, but I ended up having my first hoot. Didn't really do
4 nothing, but I was too much into drinking. Like, I was -- I had
5 a really bad alcohol problem. I still do until this day. I'm
6 trying to work on it.

7 But I started bringing johns into my home when my
8 son was around, and I -- I don't know, I just -- I was really
9 messed up when I was a kid because I had family but I didn't have
10 family because just who I chose to have the kid with and things
11 weren't right, and -- because he was, like, way older than I was,
12 but -- now I'm just probably all over the place now.

13 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** No. You're doing fine.

14 **MS. A.F.:** I've seen so many people -- well, I've
15 been involved in so many witness cases or questions for a lot of
16 them missing and murdered Indigenous people that have gotten
17 murdered or who have gone missing or have been killed or found
18 dead or something. It's like, I don't know, some reason the cops
19 always come back to me just because I was, like, always -- I was
20 everywhere, being on the streets and everything, so -- I don't
21 know, maybe they just find a random street worker and then maybe
22 they work from there, and -- but more or less all the girls that
23 went missing I -- I knew them or associated with them.

24 But I really connected with Cherisse Houle.
25 That's my little buddy. I still miss her, but -- I guess the

1 night she went missing, we were at a crack shack, and we bought
2 the same dope from the same people at the same time, and my -- my
3 one \$20 piece of crack, it fricking fucked me up for, like,
4 six -- six or seven hours, and I was, like, so paranoid. It was
5 like, I didn't want to go nowhere. I just wanted to stay inside.
6 I thought people were going to kill me.

7 So I -- and she asked me to wait at that house
8 for her until she came back, and I remember we used to always
9 stand on Juno and McDermot. There's, like, an apartment building
10 we used to sit on -- right by Ronald McDonald House. We used to
11 stand around there. We weren't allowed to, but we -- I felt safe
12 there, she felt safe there because -- just because of the Ronald
13 McDonald House. It's always open there.

14 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** M'hm. Yeah.

15 **MS. A.F.:** And there's cameras there, so -- so
16 that's where we used to stand, and -- but I remember she's saying
17 wait here, I'll be back, and then -- you know, because we used to
18 get each other high, like, you wait here, I'll -- we'll come, or
19 we used to go out and whoever got picked up first, we would meet
20 back at a spot, and -- but this time when I was waiting for her,
21 she didn't come back, but -- I guess more people are coming in
22 and out of the crack shack, and they're like, holy shit, you're
23 still fucked up off that thing? Like, I didn't want to smoke
24 anybody's dope. I was like -- I thought everybody, like -- I
25 thought honestly I was going to die, and --

1 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** M'hm.

2 **MS. A.F.:** But this chick walked in, and she
3 brought a piece off of the dealer, and she just gave me a hoot,
4 and as soon as I had that hoot, I fricking came back to reality.
5 I was like, holy shit, and then I asked for Cherisse right away,
6 but they're like, she's not back yet, and I was like, are you
7 serious?

8 And then I remember the cops finding me. I think
9 it was a couple days later. I was passed out on the couch at
10 a -- a friend's house, and they didn't call me by my name. They
11 called me by my nickname. I remember that. There is three cops
12 in front of me, and then they took me for questioning, and I told
13 them what I -- what I just told you guys; like, I was supposed to
14 wait, I bought a piece, and it made me, like, seriously paranoid,
15 so -- I told them I was, like -- kind of thought, like, this was
16 all -- like, it was all planned out, like, the dealers lacing
17 that one piece and -- because me, I was, like, always with her.
18 Like, we were always on the streets together. She would take
19 me -- she was dealing with CFS -- like, she was a -- what, 16, 17
20 when she died or something, but she was with CFS, and she used to
21 take me to her CFS office. We'd go to her foster parents' house.
22 Like, we were so close, and -- like, I looked at her like my
23 little sister, because, like -- but you don't want to be doing
24 that with your little sister, but she was my little sister, but I
25 really miss her, and -- but...

1 And then there's Tess (ph) -- Tess -- Tess who
2 died. They found her in the garbage cans, like, long time ago.
3 I can't remember exactly how many years, but I got questioned for
4 that, and then there was another murder -- I remember it was a
5 black guy that killed her because I had an incident with him.
6 His name was [S.T.].

7 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** [S.T.]?

8 **MS. A.F.:** [S.T.]. He's -- I think he's still in
9 jail, but --

10 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

11 **MS. A.F.:** I remember that night because
12 he -- well, I met him through a mutual friend. He used to come
13 to this house and get high and pick up girls, so -- and I
14 remember because I was waiting for Street Connections to come.
15 We were in a bed at my friend's house doing what we had to do,
16 and then he wanted to -- like, we were getting high, and then he
17 wanted to have sexual intercourse, but I was waiting for Street
18 Connections because I had no condoms, so -- so he ended up
19 strangling me and roughing me up in the bedroom, but if the owner
20 of the house didn't hear me gasping, she probably would -- I
21 don't even know -- I don't even want to think what would
22 have -- would have happened, but she ended up pushing the door
23 in, and she asked what was wrong, and then I was on the bed
24 scared.

25 So I told her what happened, and they kicked him

1 out, and I never reported it to the cops, but when that other
2 lady cop was reported missing or found dead, I can't remember
3 exactly how it happened, but the cops ended up finding me and
4 questioning me about him because they knew about the incident,
5 what happened in the bedroom, and I was like, how do you guys
6 know, but I guess the owner told him, but I didn't really care
7 because I didn't feel safe telling nobody about it because I
8 thought, okay, if I tell somebody, he's going to come back.
9 Like, this guy's huge. But they ended up asking me about his
10 description and everything, and all I remembered was his eyes,
11 like, a black guy -- I've never seen a black guy with blue eyes,
12 so that's what I told them. I said he had blue eyes, like,
13 light -- light-colour eyes. So he was the guy that ended up
14 murdering that one girl. Aynsley (ph). That was her name. She
15 was an older -- she was older than me. She was pretty good. She
16 was an awesome lady.

17 But I've been in and out of drug houses. I've
18 seen so many things happen in drug houses that I shouldn't have
19 even seen, but -- I was also a witness to a -- a murder homicide.
20 It was my son's uncle, but that guy when he came to the door, he
21 asked for me or Nicole (ph) -- my friend Nicole, but she passed
22 away. Then -- then he asked her -- the guy -- well, his name was
23 [S.], but there is two guys that runned that house named
24 [S.]-- well, he didn't even run it. He just came there to more
25 or less check up on me and make sure -- try to get me to go home,

1 but -- but I just wanted to stay at a crack shack all my life,
2 and -- but -- next thing you know, I'd -- I ran upstairs saying
3 holy shit, there's somebody here with a shotgun, and then we all
4 ran to the bedroom, and, like, everyone's giving me shit: Why'd
5 you let him in, why'd you let him in? I'm like -- it's like, why
6 did you have a girl as a door person? But -- it's like, I'm not
7 going to argue with somebody who asks for me and they -- like,
8 their face is all covered up and it's not even winter. Well, it
9 wasn't even cold, but...

10 Next thing you know, we heard, like, gun shots
11 going off downstairs, and we all ran out of the house, but they
12 ended up having to grab me and throw me over their shoulder
13 because I didn't want to leave [S.], and then the cops ended up
14 finding us. We only ran, like, two blocks over, but they found
15 us all and took us all in for questioning, and -- the cops really
16 cooperated with me because that's my son's uncle that got shot,
17 and it's something I've got to deal with and, like, hold for the
18 rest of my life because he wouldn't have been there -- he would
19 have been alive today probably if I didn't get him to try to get
20 me to get out of the house, but -- so I hold that against myself.

21 I also hold Cherisse's death and my cousin
22 [Cousin]'s homicide still unsolved, but when [S.] got shot, one
23 member from, like -- there was this other guy's brother who got
24 killed, and then I lost my cousin, and it felt like they were
25 taking people's family that seen whatever happened, and so I hold

1 my cousin -- my godfather's death to my -- my -- to blame, but
2 my -- I remember my old drug dealer, he used to yell at me,
3 don't -- because -- like, don't hold this against you, you did
4 not -- you had nothing to do with none of these deaths, but I
5 took him to -- for me to realize, like, because when their
6 memorials come around or the year -- the anniversary of them
7 being dead, like, them, passing away, I can -- I don't cry about
8 it no more. I don't, like, lash out anymore as much as I did
9 when I was on the streets doing drugs. So I think my dealer
10 actually in a good way helped me to heal with that grieving part.

11 And until this day, they don't know who shot my
12 cousin. He was randomly shot by three guys, so I know there's
13 somebody out there that knows what happened to him. I know
14 there's somebody that can solve this case and -- because you
15 don't just all of a sudden say, oh, he got randomly shot by three
16 guys. Like --

17 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** What was your cousin's name?

18 **MS. A.F.:** [Cousin].

19 **MR. K.C.:** How long ago?

20 **MS. A.F.:** I think it was 2009. Might be a
21 little -- because I was still a drug addict, so it might
22 be -- but --

23 **MR. K.C.:** 2008?

24 **MS. A.F.:** Yeah.

25 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Somewhere in that time

1 frame?

2 MS. A.F.: Yeah, it was April 14th. I remember
3 that day.

4 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Okay.

5 MS. A.F.: But yeah, I've seen so much, and,
6 like, the law's not doing anything. Like, they're letting
7 diddlers out of -- pedophiles out of jail, and, like, what -- and
8 dealers. I understand dealers doing time, but it should be
9 both -- like, the kids -- the people -- the guys that are -- that
10 are hurting these young girls, they should be in there doing
11 their time and not getting just a slap on the wrist.

12 Like -- and then right off topic, but, like, with
13 Bill Cosby, like, sure, whatever, he's going to be dying soon,
14 but he should have gotten more -- more time than -- he should
15 have just got life because it's, like, so stupid. Like, people
16 are getting away with harming young kids, and then we have that
17 2-year-old, that Draven [sic] who just got killed by a
18 step -- like, a boyfriend, but -- and watch, he'll probably get
19 nothing, more than -- more than -- more -- to nothing. But the
20 law is, like, really messed up right now, and -- yeah. I don't
21 know what else to say, but it was really good to cry.

22 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Thank you.

23 MS. A.F.: Oh, and I also changed my life around.
24 Three years sober.

25 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: How'd you -- how'd that

1 happen?

2 **MS. A.F.:** I got pregnant with my fifth child.

3 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay.

4 **MS. A.F.:** I have four other kids, but -- I have
5 five kids, but I only keep one. My sister keeps my other four
6 kids because I was too busy being an unfit parent and doing
7 drugs, partying still.

8 **MR. K.C.:** How old's your oldest?

9 **MS. A.F.:** 18.

10 **MR. K.C.:** 18? Hm.

11 **MS. A.F.:** Yeah. My youngest is 3,
12 so -- obviously, three years clean, three years normal.

13 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Congratulations.

14 **MS. A.F.:** My daughter helped me -- well, her
15 father pushed me to get clean and to get her out of the system
16 because she got apprehended from CFS July 27th, 2015. I had her
17 on the 25th. I remember that day perfectly because it was
18 fricking hot, but -- my social worker let me walk her to the car,
19 but I was coming from the women's hospital, and you know where
20 that little street is where the crosswalk is --

21 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** M'hm.

22 **MS. A.F.:** -- and you walk to the other side?

23 **MR. K.C.:** M'hm.

24 **MS. A.F.:** I was going to run with her there. I
25 told her that, and I said, I'm just going to fucking run.

1 (LAUGHTER)

2 MS. A.F.: But he's like, what is that going to
3 do? I'm like, she's not going to chase me. She's not going to
4 jump in her car and chase me. Karen (ph) might chase me, but
5 she's not going to chase me. He's like, that's going to fricking
6 make -- make things worse, so I just put her in her car seat and
7 watched her drive away, but I got a visit with her two days after
8 that, so things are -- things are awesome. I got sober
9 October 11, 2015.

10 MR. K.C.: Whoa.

11 MS. A.F.: I just had enough -- enough. I said
12 to my baby's dad, I said, enough is enough, I need to get our
13 daughter home, and so I went to programs. I went to
14 treat -- well, I went to treatment when I was pregnant with her,
15 but after them apprehending her, I still had a couple slips after
16 that, and I got her home a year -- a month before she turned 1.
17 I got my file closed, so my file is closed with CFS, and...

18 MR. K.C.: Which treatment centre did you go?

19 MS. A.F.: Hm?

20 MR. K.C.: Which treatment centre?

21 MS. A.F.: Oh, Ste. Rose.

22 MR. K.C.: Ste. Rose?

23 MS. A.F.: Yeah.

24 MR. K.C.: Oh, up in Dauphin. Oh, yeah.

25 MS. A.F.: Yeah, I was -- so many days I wanted

1 to leave there, and --

2 (LAUGHTER)

3 MS. A.F.: -- phone my sister, come and get me,
4 I'm only 20 minutes away from you.

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 MS. A.F.: She's, like, no, you stay there, you
7 need to get better for your baby. So ended up -- Propicipants
8 [sic] kept me there, and -- so after a while -- I think
9 after -- the first week, it was so hard for me. I was like, oh,
10 my God, and then I was like, I want to go on Facebook, and
11 then -- I didn't know there was a library across the
12 field -- well, across the way, and my friend [C.], he's like,
13 come on, I'll take you for a walk. So we finished our program,
14 and then we went -- he took me for a walk, and he's like, here
15 you go, here's Facebook. There's a fricking public library right
16 across the --

17 (LAUGHTER)

18 MS. A.F.: -- like, by the parking lot. So I was
19 all happy, and then my days went good after that, so...

20 MR. K.C.: That's good.

21 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Is there anything in
22 particular in the treatment that helped you?

23 MS. A.F.: The Propicipants [sic].

24 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: The --

25 MS. A.F.: Not even the program. It was the

1 Propicipants [sic] that -- more or less that kept me there
2 because I've tried -- like I said, with my first son, I tried
3 treatments in and out at BHF, and --

4 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

5 **MS. A.F.:** -- the longest I did was 29 days, and
6 the 29th day I left because they told me that my son wasn't
7 coming there. So CFS kind of just went back on their word, so I
8 just went back to the streets and started using and drinking and
9 partying again, and my daughter, she more or less got me to where
10 I am today, her and her dad, but now her dad's downhill. So he
11 hasn't seen her since -- he walked out on her life on her 1st
12 birthday, so -- and he's just going downhill from that. It's
13 that meth. We've got to get the meth off the streets.

14 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

15 **MS. A.F.:** It's killing and it's taking
16 lots -- destroying lots of families. Like, to this day,
17 her -- my daughter was -- like, a couple of days ago, I remember
18 her saying, I love -- because I'm like, I love you baby. She's
19 like, I love you, Mommy, and I love my daddy too. And I was
20 like, where did that come from?

21 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Is there anything in
22 your -- that you would feel that would help that meth crisis?

23 **MS. A.F.:** They need to, like, put their fricking
24 foot down. Like, sure, they're putting their foot down now
25 because they're -- they're legalizing marijuana. Like, they're

1 strict -- making laws strict. Well, if you see a crack -- I
2 remember when I used to get rolled up on by cops, and I'm
3 associated through crack dealers, and -- but they used to throw
4 me in jail, like, for a couple pieces. Like, holy shit, they
5 were so harsh to me. But -- but I wouldn't speak to where I got
6 it from or whatever, but they would, like, question, question,
7 but the -- they need to get the -- like, more or less, you can't
8 really get meth off the streets because it's under your kitchen
9 sink.

10 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

11 MS. A.F.: Like,
12 everybody's -- everybody -- like, if I wanted to, I can go make
13 it.

14 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah. Yeah.

15 MS. A.F.: Like --

16 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: And it's so cheap.

17 MS. A.F.: -- anybody -- it is. Like, anybody
18 can go --

19 MR. K.C.: Can cook some.

20 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: It's bad right now.

21 MS. A.F.: It is. It's -- like, it's going out
22 to the rezzes --

23 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

24 MS. A.F.: -- little communities and...

25 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: The whole communities right

1 now are just devastated.

2 MS. A.F.: Yeah.

3 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Downtown Winnipeg, the north
4 end.

5 MS. A.F.: And then there's, like -- there's no
6 resources out in the little -- I heard there's no resources
7 for --

8 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: M'hm.

9 MS. A.F.: -- people in, like, little towns or --

10 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah. No treatment centres,
11 nothing.

12 MS. A.F.: There's nothing. Like -- and that's
13 where, like -- because as -- when I got sober, I started getting
14 involved in here and the EAC committee, the 24/7 rally and
15 committee. We're trying to make a safe place for -- for
16 adults -- well, adult women or --

17 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: M'hm.

18 MS. A.F.: -- adult women, transgenders. There's
19 actually a rally tomorrow.

20 MR. K.C.: Hm.

21 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah. 7:30, right?

22 MS. A.F.: No. It's at 1.

23 MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Oh, okay.

24 MS. A.F.: Yeah.

25 MR. K.C.: You have Participants.

1 **MS. A.F.:** I'm going to be -- I'm not going to be
2 able to make it, Propicipants [sic], but -- I mean -- oh, wrong
3 one.

4 **(LAUGHTER)**

5 **MS. A.F.:** I'm not going to make the rally. I
6 have a hospital visit. I've got to go get my leg checked out,
7 but...

8 **MR. K.C.:** And when you were -- when you were
9 talking about the Participants, that's family.

10 **MS. A.F.:** Yeah, I consider them family. They --

11 **MR. K.C.:** It's not so much the program but the
12 family.

13 **MS. A.F.:** We're all street girls before. We
14 used to always get high before. Like, we've come so far and got
15 our families back. I had my kids in my life, my other four kids,
16 but I messed up two months ago when I started drinking, so I'm
17 going to actually -- my support worker, she's going to -- through
18 my program, she's going to help me fill out the rest of my
19 Sagkeeng application for treatment for me and my daughter to go
20 to in January.

21 **MR. K.C.:** In Sagkeeng?

22 **MS. A.F.:** Yeah. They're having a Seven Teaching
23 treatment for January 2nd, so -- I'm hopefully hoping that me and
24 my daughter can both go --

25 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's awesome.

1 **MS. A.F.:** -- because if I can't take her
2 nowhere, I'm not going. I'll just --

3 **MR. K.C.:** I'll try -- I'll try and talk to [B.].

4 **MS. A.F.:** Okay.

5 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** There you go.

6 **(LAUGHTER)**

7 **MR. K.C.:** She's -- I'll tell you a little story.
8 Many years ago, I -- she came to our sweat lodges. She got
9 married, and then she couldn't get pregnant. Well, she got
10 pregnant but she aborted, and she lost three, and she came and
11 seen [S.] and I, and she says, (speaking in Native language), I'm
12 losing my kids. I'm aborting. Miscarriages. Is there something
13 I can do, or is there something happening?

14 Our people have incredible gifts. Dreamers.
15 This one particular lady, she dreams, and -- so I called her. We
16 went into the lodge and gave her some (indiscernible) tobacco,
17 sacred tobaccos. (Speaking in Native language), see this lady,
18 and -- so it's one thing to talk, eh? But it's another thing to
19 dream.

20 **MS. A.F.:** M'hm.

21 **MR. K.C.:** And -- (Speaking in Native
22 language) -- said I'm going to go see her the spirit way, and
23 sure enough, on the fifth morning she called me,
24 says -- (Speaking in Native language). Says, we'll bring her in,
25 so we brought her in, and we went in to the lodge, and we did

1 this ceremony -- did our ceremonies and we did our healing, and
2 so she was told to do something, and that gray willow, medicine,
3 that was a -- (Speaking in Native language) -- says, you're going
4 to have three sons, and sure enough.

5 You see, prayers, family, spirit, all means so
6 much for -- for our ways, and we were always told, always look
7 after the women. If we want our people to live, you've got to
8 live, got to find a strength to be able to create and make your
9 family. You're blessed. Creator given you that gift of life,
10 and you carried life, and you brought life into this world. So
11 [B.] now has three sons --

12 **MS. A.F.:** Awesome.

13 **MR. K.C.:** -- through traditional ways and
14 prayers, and the -- her son [C.], they're all sun-dancers, all
15 through the drums. Good singers. And that's one of the things
16 that have helped so many of our people: Prayer. Whether your
17 prayer with Christian ways or -- or Muslims or -- all prayers are
18 all sacred. They all have different -- although we speak
19 different languages -- I -- I happen to speak Ojibwe and English,
20 but I have families that are Sioux, German, and Cheyenne.
21 Different languages, different prayers, different ceremonies, but
22 all say the same thing, asking for that healing. So within her,
23 [B.] was blessed for having three children. Now she runs that
24 treatment centre.

25 **MS. A.F.:** Awesome.

1 **MR. K.C.:** And so I'll see what I can -- see if I
2 can talk to her. She lost her father not too long ago, her mom,
3 too, and -- but we're having a -- a memorial. We lost an Elder
4 again yesterday. That's the reason I had to rush home. I had to
5 go out to see the family, and so -- but anyway, I'm hoping to see
6 [B.] tonight or tomorrow or this weekend because we're going to
7 do a family gathering because I dreamt of her dad and her -- her
8 and her dad are -- and I were really close. We grew up together,
9 and -- but anyway, [B.] and that whole family will help you.
10 There's lots of good people.

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12 -- Upon adjourning

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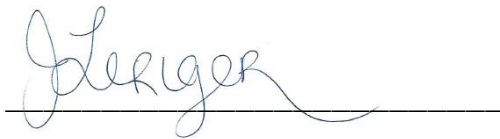
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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jenessa Leriger, 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jenessa Leriger", is written over a horizontal line.

Jenessa Leriger

October 24, 2018

