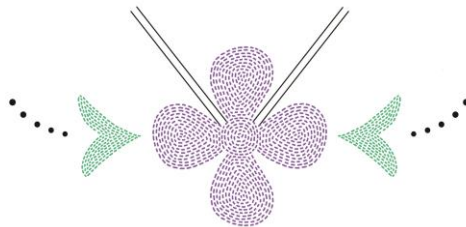


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Mamawi Ichi Itata Centre**



PUBLIC

Thursday August 2, 2018

Statement - Volume 445

**Natasha Acoby, In relation to Valerie Acoby
& Jennifer Catcheway**

Statement gathered by Tiar Wilson

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

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II

NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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Statement gatherer: Tiar Wilson

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Winnipeg, Manitoba

2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 2:37
3 p.m.

4 **TIAR WILSON:** I need my phone. Just to keep
5 track of the time. I'm not on Facebook or anything. Okay.
6 Good afternoon, Commissioners. It's 2:37 P.M. on Thursday,
7 August 2nd, 2018. This is Tiar Wilson here and I have the
8 honour of taking this next statement. And I'll get her to
9 introduce herself in a minute. But we are here at the
10 Mamawi Ichi Itata Centre in the north end of Winnipeg. And
11 there are a couple of health supports in the room, who I'll
12 also get them to introduce themselves. You won't see them
13 on camera but they are here as well. So with that, let's
14 just get started. Can you just maybe introduce yourself?
15 First name, last name and please spell it so our
16 translators get it right.

17 **NATASHA ACOBY:** My name is Natasha Acoby.
18 N-A-T-A-S-H-A O-C -- A-C-O-B-Y.

19 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay. And you are here today
20 to talk about your aunt?

21 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. I'm here today to
22 talk about my auntie Valerie Laroche (Ph.). Her original
23 name was Acoby but she was married as Laroche.

24 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay. And then so we'll go to
25 the right of you. If you could introduce yourself. Just

Natasha Acoby

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1 speak up loud and then catch it on ---

2 **JASMINE SMITH:** I'm Jasmine Smith (Ph.) and
3 I'm here as a support from Medicine Bear Counselling.

4 **MADALYN GALDEN:** Hi, I'm Madalyn Galden
5 (Ph.). I'm here as a support through Health Services.

6 **FREDRICA VALENTINE:** I'm Fredrica Valentine
7 (Ph.). I'm also here as a support through Health Services.

8 **SHAYANNE CHARTRAND:** I'm Shayanne Chartrand
9 (Ph.). I'm the FILU for South and the 53rd Parallel in
10 Manitoba from Medicine Bear Counselling.

11 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay. So like I explained to
12 you a little bit earlier when we were getting ready, this
13 is -- this space here today is yours. And we'll start
14 where you want to start. So if you have anything to say --
15 what -- what do you want to start with?

16 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I think I'll start off with
17 mentioning my grandma being in residential school because I
18 just found out about that recently, and because that was
19 her daughter that was murdered, and I feel like it links to
20 it. And I found out my grandma was in residential school
21 from the age of four to sixteen years old. And so I feel
22 like because of the lack of skills she obtained from that
23 school, that's what she passed on to her children.

24 And it kind of became a -- a drinking
25 environment for my family. And in about '79, that's when

Natasha Acoby

(Valerie Acoby & Jennifer Catchaway)

1 my auntie was murdered. And my auntie Valerie and her
2 husband Patrick Laroche, and my grandpa went out drinking
3 and they started fighting at a bar. And then he was,
4 apparently -- my father told me yesterday he was an abusive
5 man and always abused her, and they always had to try stop
6 him.

7 So when my grandpa was trying to stop him in
8 the bar, he beat up my grandpa and then dragged my auntie
9 out of the bar and beat her up just down the road. And so
10 -- and then I talked to my auntie this morning -- my auntie
11 Debbie (Ph.) and she mentioned that her and two of her
12 siblings found her sister on the side of the road, and that
13 her -- the back of her head was smashed in, and her --
14 like, her face, from her ear, was ripped right open. And
15 they -- they're assuming, like, a crowbar or something -- a
16 tire jack was used because of the damage done to her head.

17 And her -- my auntie's husband who murdered
18 her, Patrick Laroche, was sentenced to 15 years, and then
19 he appealed that and got 25 or life. And they're assuming
20 he did that because maybe he would do less time. They
21 don't know how much time he did, they just started seeing
22 him around the city not even ten years later. So all they
23 know is he didn't do ten years for that crime.

24 And I -- I'm mentioning that because they
25 left -- they left three children behind. And out of those

Natasha Acoby

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1 three children, the -- the baby of those children, Renee
2 Acoby ended up in jail. And when was that? I was -- I was
3 17 years old when she went in. I'm -- I'm 36 today. And I
4 haven't seen her since.

5 **TIAR WILSON:** No need to apologize.

6 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Well, I'm just -- I haven't
7 seen my cousin since. And my dad told me when his sister
8 passed that my grandpa told her to just let those kids go
9 to CFS. And then -- because the -- Patrick Laroche decided
10 to take the murder to trial. And so because my grandpa was
11 there he had to testify. And -- and I get this emotional.

12 And during the trial he shot himself. So my
13 auntie told me today, like, she feels like he took two
14 lives, not -- not just one. [*Three sentences redacted*
15 *pursuant to Rule 55*]. When they're sober, my family's
16 really good. They're all loving. But when they're drunk,
17 the violence comes out. And so that's what we grew up
18 around.

19 I think because my dad lost -- lost his
20 sister, he tried to raise us to be tough. So I just, like,
21 remember being seven years old and my dad would be
22 drinking, and he would try to toughen me up. He was just
23 trying to teach me how to fight. And so he would, like,
24 slap me around trying to get me to fight with him and just
25 wrestle.

Natasha Acoby

(Valerie Acoby & Jennifer Catchaway)

1 And I remember saying, "No, dad. Like, I
2 can't do -- I don't want to hit you. No, dad." And he
3 just kind of -- he just kept kind of slapping me until he
4 wanted me to just, like -- I was trained to have a temper.
5 And so he kept -- I just kept getting hit and then I
6 remember, like, finally losing it and just wailing on my
7 dad. And -- and he kept, kind of, doing that, just to try
8 to teach me how to fight.

9 And I grew up really angry with my dad. And
10 I grew up fighting my dad because of that. And I just
11 became a angry person. And I was so angry at him but now
12 when I look back, like, learning about all this residential
13 school and where they learned it from, I have more
14 compassion for him and we get along today. But as a little
15 kid, I didn't understand what was -- why that was
16 happening. I just feel like that screwed up -- really
17 screwed up my psyche as a kid.

18 And that's how it's affected me. I don't
19 know how it's affected the rest of my family. Like, just
20 having a cousin in jail, doing more time than her dad did
21 for murder, just seems so unjust.

22 And, yeah, I just guess during that trial,
23 my grandpa had to testify in court and my dad said after he
24 testified once he couldn't do it no more. They were --
25 they were showing pictures of his dead daughter and after

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1 one testimony he just went and shot himself.

2 And then the suicide epidemic just seems to
3 run in my family. Like, it didn't skip -- it didn't skip
4 my generation. And, like, I just -- I just feel like
5 that's the effect that the murders had. I have -- feel
6 like I have -- we're burying cousins too much. I have one
7 in jail for life and burying cousins younger than me.

8 **TIAR WILSON:** So do you want to talk about
9 the -- the cousins that you've lost to suicide? Do you
10 want to share their names and ---

11 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I don't want to share their
12 names.

13 **TIAR WILSON:** No? That's fine. I just
14 wanted to see if you wanted -- wanted it heard today. I
15 have a couple of questions in terms of your aunt. Like,
16 where -- you talked about, like, the details but more
17 specifically, like, where -- where did this happen? Was it
18 in Winnipeg or where?

19 **NATASHA ACOBY:** It was in Mariapolis and
20 that's just by Swan Lake.

21 **TIAR WILSON:** And ---

22 **NATASHA ACOBY:** And ---

23 **TIAR WILSON:** Sorry, go ahead.

24 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I'm not sure where
25 Mariapolis is. I just -- I know they grew up around Swan

Natasha Acoby

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1 Lake so I'm just assuming it's around Swan Lake somewhere.

2 Couple hours south of Brandon.

3 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah. And this was in 1979?

4 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. When she was
5 murdered, yeah.

6 **TIAR WILSON:** Do you remember roughly around
7 when the trial was? Was it eighty ---

8 **NATASHA ACOBY:** She was murdered in August
9 of '79.

10 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

11 **NATASHA ACOBY:** And then my auntie said this
12 morning that my grandpa killed himself six months after and
13 that was during the trial. So ---

14 **TIAR WILSON:** So the trial was pretty quick
15 after.

16 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

17 **TIAR WILSON:** Do you want to share your
18 grandpa's name with us today?

19 **NATASHA ACOBY:** William Walker.

20 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

21 **NATASHA ACOBY:** And, now -- well, the only
22 thing my -- my auntie and my dad really wanted to mention
23 was they wanted to bring up, they want Patrick Laroche's
24 name out there. They want it documented.

25 **TIAR WILSON:** And Patrick Laroche is the --

1 was the husband, right?

2 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah.

3 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

4 **NATASHA ACOBY:** And -- and they were -- they
5 were really upset because [*private information - six*
6 *sentences redacted*].

7 **TIAR WILSON:** M'hmm.

8 **NATASHA ACOBY:** [*Private information - two*
9 *sentences redacted*]. So that's what they wanted me to come
10 here and mention today.

11 **TIAR WILSON:** Is there anything else you
12 want to say about him in terms of messages you want to
13 share?

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** No, not about him, no. But
15 just the tall, like, even though I didn't get a chance to
16 meet her, I can see the effect it has on my dad and his
17 siblings.

18 **TIAR WILSON:** Want to speak about that from
19 your perspective? Just ---

20 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah, like, just no -- I
21 guess they're going with the coping mechanisms that were
22 taught to them. Just haven't had proper healing in my
23 family. So, like, the addictions and mental illness seem
24 to run very high in my family. And it just doesn't go good
25 with creating a positive relationship.

Natasha Acoby

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1 **TIAR WILSON:** Must be hard on you
2 emotionally and mentally as well because you
3 (indiscernible) about what they've shared with you. You
4 must have to carry a lot of their -- of their pain.

5 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

6 **TIAR WILSON:** How -- how does that feel?
7 Like, you know, you're younger than them but you're kind of
8 taking care of them that way.

9 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I can't imagine what they're
10 going through. Like, just gives me a lot more compassion.

11 **TIAR WILSON:** M'hmm.

12 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Whereas before when I was
13 angry, I was more judgemental and, like, how could you be
14 drinking? How could you put this through that -- put us
15 through that? Where then when I -- when they tell me more
16 and they open up, then it's, like, oh, my God, like, kind
17 of understand a little more why they're live -- choose to
18 live the way they are.

19 **TIAR WILSON:** How -- how do you cope though?
20 Like, in terms of dealing with their trauma and holding
21 their trauma too?

22 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I've been avoiding my dad.
23 I don't go around there as much. I don't know. When I
24 quit drinking, I kind of quit going around family who still
25 drink so distance myself I guess.

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1 **TIAR WILSON:** So you're sober now?

2 **NATASHA ACOBY:** From alcohol.

3 **TIAR WILSON:** Congratulations.

4 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Thank you.

5 **TIAR WILSON:** I know, like, is there
6 anything else you want to share in terms of your aunt?
7 Because I know you were talking about you knew somebody
8 else?

9 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Oh, Jennifer.

10 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

11 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. Jennifer lived with
12 me and my sister for the last few years of her life.

13 **TIAR WILSON:** Can you -- on the record, her
14 name -- her full name?

15 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Jennifer Lee Catchaway. Her
16 birthday is [personal information]. She went missing on
17 her 18th birthday on -- in 2008. And she -- she was living
18 with me and my sister [Sister 1]. And first we all lived
19 together in Portage La Prairie, and then I moved to
20 Winnipeg and I got a place on Pembina Highway. So she's --
21 was staying up there with me until about the beginning of
22 June in 2008.

23 And then her and my -- she was dating my
24 cousin [Cousin 2] and her and [Cousin 2] found a job out in
25 Portage La Prairie. So her and [Cousin 2] moved out of my

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1 house back into [Sister 1]'s house in Portage La Prairie.
2 And at the time, I was criminally involved to -- to make my
3 money -- me and my sister. And Jenn wasn't involved with
4 the -- the crime we were doing to make money but she hung
5 around us. Us -- us and other people.

6 They decided to go up north to make money,
7 and I was supposed to go with them. I didn't make the
8 ride. So Jenn took off with her cousin and her auntie's
9 husband to go make money up north. And we just never heard
10 from her ever again. Well, she -- I think she called
11 somebody but we just never seen her again. Yeah, I
12 suspected [*identifying information redacted*] took her from
13 the party but nobody knows what really happened.

14 And, yeah, that was such a difficult time
15 because even though she'd moved out of my house, she never
16 took any of her furniture or none of her clothes. So all
17 her furniture and clothes were still at my house on Pembina
18 Highway when she went missing. And that was such a big
19 deal and it was -- it was hard, it was creating negative
20 relationships amongst people who wanted her stuff from us.

21 Yeah, I don't remember the first year after
22 she went missing because I still sold drugs and did a lot
23 of it. So after she went missing, the first year was a
24 blur.

25 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

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1 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Actually, it was -- she went
2 missing 2008, and I think I was -- until I went to Ka Ni
3 Kanichihk in 2010. So I don't remember a couple years
4 after she went missing until I went and got introduced to
5 my culture at Ka Ni Kanichihk. And things have been better
6 since.

7 **TIAR WILSON:** Do you want to talk about how
8 that changed your life, finding your culture? You want to
9 move past talking about -- like, do you -- do you still
10 want to talk more about Jennifer, or do you feel like
11 you've said -- because I know you said ---

12 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah, I could talk more
13 about her.

14 **TIAR WILSON:** Like, she lived with you for a
15 couple of years. What was that like?

16 **NATASHA ACOBY:** It was -- it was really
17 good. We had -- it was different because me and my sisters
18 had grown up around people with tempers and just -- and she
19 was just so laid back and easygoing, like, willing to help
20 with our kids all the time, and, like, an extra hands-on
21 person. And always happy. It was different from growing
22 up in a negative environment to have someone so happy
23 around.

24 Yeah, she would spend her birthdays and
25 Christmases with us. We had planned on -- I'd always hung

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1 out with one of her cousins [Jennifer's cousin] and me and
2 [Jennifer's cousin] always went to the bar and Jenn saw
3 that. And so she was, like, "On my 18th birthday, we're
4 all going out." So that was the plan for her 18th birthday
5 and it never happened.

6 **TIAR WILSON:** So when you lost her, I know
7 you were already caught up in that lifestyle. But when she
8 went missing, did that affect you more? Did you drink to -
9 - alcohol and drugs more ---

10 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah.

11 **TIAR WILSON:** --- during that time?

12 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm. Yeah, I gave up my
13 son. Yeah, I gave up my son for a few years. But I was
14 fortunate to have my mom because I didn't have to give him
15 to CFS.

16 **TIAR WILSON:** I don't -- I just want to say
17 I -- I don't mind the tears. But if it gets too hard, we
18 can take a break, or ---

19 **NATASHA ACOBY:** No. I'm used to holding in
20 my tears so I'm -- I'm glad I'm able to release.

21 **TIAR WILSON:** That's good. Tears are
22 medicine. So you gave up your son around the time you lost
23 Jennifer. Is there anything else you want to add?

24 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. How much the culture
25 helped. Like, just being able to identify with myself.

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1 Like, I know that's not going to help everybody but it
2 helped me so ---

3 **TIAR WILSON:** Want to start off by telling
4 me how you found Ka Ni Kanichihk?

5 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. My sister wanted to
6 get back into school and she's the one who ended up there.
7 And she didn't end up applying for it and told me about it.
8 And I didn't even like computers, or have a Facebook, or
9 know how to turn on a computer, and that course was a
10 computer course. I only took it for the cultural aspect.
11 That's -- that's really what -- that's really what changed
12 my life was life skills and the cultural aspect that that
13 place offered. And jus being -- having contact with the
14 medicine man there. Yeah, just having that experience with
15 the medicine man, having him telling me of my dreams to
16 make me believe what they're -- they're telling me.
17 Surreal.

18 **TIAR WILSON:** Did you have any of the
19 culture in your life before that?

20 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I never thought I did when -
21 - you know, when I first learned about the culture, I
22 always though, why weren't -- why weren't they teaching me
23 this growing up? And then until I was learning little
24 things, like, just putting my hair away even -- my grandma
25 had always taught that but I didn't know that was

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1 traditional until I was learning from there. Then it kind
2 of linked some of the traditional stuff I was already
3 learning growing up. But they never explained what it was
4 growing up.

5 **TIAR WILSON:** There's a couple questions I
6 have. I'm just trying to wonder which way to go. I just
7 wanted to go back to your aunt a little bit. Just for some
8 of the details for the Commissioners because they'll have
9 questions in terms of the -- the trial. So you said there
10 was a trial ---

11 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

12 **TIAR WILSON:** --- and he got -- I'm a little
13 bit confused because you said 15 years first and then 25.
14 Do -- do -- so he went to trial twice I think?

15 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Well, yeah, my auntie was
16 saying this morning that he was sentenced 15 years. And
17 then appealed that. And then was given life after he
18 appealed it.

19 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

20 **NATASHA ACOBY:** But she was almost thinking,
21 like, he did that to do less time. Like, you know, when
22 you're going to -- when you go to Stony or Headingley, you
23 get less two years, you go to Headingley and do almost two
24 years. And then when you get over two years, you go to
25 Stony and you do less than the amount that you would've

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1 done in Headingley probably. That's why she's assuming he
2 did that, to do less time.

3 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah. And then -- so your
4 aunts -- your -- was the sister of your dad. How -- how
5 many siblings does your dad have? Like, how many of them
6 were there in total?

7 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Eight or nine.

8 **TIAR WILSON:** Eight or nine? And they are
9 from Swan -- Swan Lake ---

10 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah.

11 **TIAR WILSON:** --- members I guess?

12 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. Swan Lake members.

13 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay. And ---

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** There -- there was eight or
15 nine of them. And but -- by, like, by the time I'm born,
16 there's only half of them -- not even half of the -- the
17 siblings and parents alive so half of them are gone already
18 by the time I was born.

19 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay. I'm not good with math
20 here. You said you're 36. So what year would you have
21 been ---

22 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Eighty-two.

23 **TIAR WILSON:** Eighty-two. I can't process
24 the math so good. So in -- by the time you were born in
25 '82, half of them -- half of the siblings had passed away?

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1 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

2 **TIAR WILSON:** Were they all, like, natural
3 causes? Or would -- do you know what happened there?

4 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I think one of the babies
5 was TB and then murdered, suicide.

6 **TIAR WILSON:** So there was other murders in
7 your family before your aunt?

8 **NATASHA ACOBY:** No, I guess the rest were
9 suicides.

10 **TIAR WILSON:** And then the other thing was
11 your aunt -- you mentioned she had three children?

12 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah.

13 **TIAR WILSON:** You know their names?

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm. [Cousin 2], [Cousin
15 3] and Renee Acoby.

16 **TIAR WILSON:** And then Renee Acoby is the
17 one who's been in jail?

18 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

19 **TIAR WILSON:** And you said they were in the
20 foster care system?

21 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. My grandma took them.
22 My grandma took them in -- my -- yeah, my grandma took them
23 in but by the time they were teenagers they were out of
24 control and my grandma couldn't control them anymore. I
25 was actually born and raised in Winnipeg until I was ten

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1 years old and then my grandma needed help with those kids
2 so my dad and my parents relocated all of us to Brandon to
3 go help those kids. And then that was the last time I ever
4 seen all four of those kids together. There was actually
5 four of them. Well, only -- my grandma ended up raising
6 four grandchildren, not just the three murdered ones. But
7 ---

8 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

9 **NATASHA ACOBY:** --- I was, like, 11 -- 10,
10 11 years old when the last time all four of those children
11 were ever together under the same there. Never allowed to
12 see each other again all four at once.

13 **TIAR WILSON:** And the reasoning why I'm
14 asking these questions is, you know, again, part of the --
15 what the Commissioners are looking to is at the systemic
16 causes and root causes, right. So it's good to have that
17 record to know if Child and Family was involved, like, the
18 justice system, when and where, and that sort of thing,
19 right.

20 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Oh, okay. Yeah.

21 **TIAR WILSON:** And then you mentioned the
22 trial. So in terms of that, like, part of our -- part of
23 our -- how can I explain this? Part of our process, we're
24 allowed to subpoena places. So -- so, like, if your
25 family's ever curious about the police investigation, for

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1 example, or things like that, you know, the National
2 Inquiry has the power to subpoena those records.

3 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Oh, okay.

4 **TIAR WILSON:** So that's why I'm kind of
5 asking all of these questions.

6 **NATASHA ACOBY:** My auntie and my dad both
7 kept talking about how they want Patrick Laroche's name
8 documented. And they mentioned [*private information - one*
9 *sentence redacted*]. Like ---

10 **TIAR WILSON:** Definitely. So ---

11 **NATASHA ACOBY:** --- [*private information -*
12 *one sentence redacted*].

13 **TIAR WILSON:** M'hmm.

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** [*Private information - one*
15 *sentence redacted*].

16 **TIAR WILSON:** Do you remember the name of
17 the program that he ---

18 **NATASHA ACOBY:** No, I meant to look it up
19 before I came but I didn't even ---

20 **TIAR WILSON:** That's okay.

21 **NATASHA ACOBY:** --- do that.

22 **TIAR WILSON:** We -- we can do that.

23 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. Yeah.

24 **TIAR WILSON:** I just wanted to see if you
25 knew the name of it. Patrick -- okay. So I will put that

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1 on the record. And -- and you speaking that way -- that
2 just speaking with it, I think then this will be a public
3 statement if you want it on the record that way. Are you
4 okay with this being public then?

5 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I guess. I'll take -- like,
6 I'm just -- I guess, like, I wouldn't say it for nothing.
7 I'm just scared, like, oh, if it's not true then -- that I
8 caused him any -- what is it called if they say it for
9 infiltration if it's not true.

10 **TIAR WILSON:** Well, if he went to jail then
11 ---

12 **NATASHA ACOBY:** But I imagine ---

13 **TIAR WILSON:** --- it is -- it is true.

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Oh, okay. I thought you
15 meant [*private information*]. I thought you mean that part.

16 **TIAR WILSON:** Oh. No.

17 **NATASHA ACOBY:** [*Private information - one*
18 *sentence redacted*]. Okay, yeah.

19 **TIAR WILSON:** That's our lawyer's job.
20 They'll -- they'll ---

21 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Okay.

22 **TIAR WILSON:** --- look into all of that.

23 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Okay. Yeah.

24 **TIAR WILSON:** Is there anything else you
25 want to add about anything? Like, your -- your upbringing?

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1 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah, my -- just my
2 upbringing being, like, very violent and alcoholic, and
3 alcoholism and, like, left me sexually exploited. And,
4 again, I feel like that's all due to the -- the residential
5 system. Putting my grandma in there, and it was just her
6 passing that -- whatever she knows down.

7 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

8 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

9 **TIAR WILSON:** Part of our mandate is to also
10 speak with survivors of violence. So you -- you just
11 revealed to me that -- you talk about sexual exploitation.
12 And you don't -- you don't have to talk about it. But I
13 need to ask you, like, if you want to share any of your
14 experiences on the record in terms of that.

15 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah, I can share my
16 experience. I just know it's -- all -- all I know is it
17 happened before I was ten because we moved away when I was
18 ten, and I know this happened in Winnipeg. And it was a
19 guy I called uncle, it was just one of my dad's friends.
20 And my mom drank at the time too. And I think my dad went
21 out with him -- why he came home by himself that night.
22 And he came and laid with my little sister so I would
23 assume -- my sister looked like three or four to me, and
24 I'm three years older than her so I think I was six or
25 seven. And we were laying in our room together and my

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1 uncle came home, my mom was passed out in the living room.
2 And he came into the room and he laid with us. And I
3 didn't expect anything at first until he was starting to
4 touch me. And then I remember saying, "Don't uncle." And
5 I remember turning my -- my private part around and then he
6 ended up touching my -- just my bum instead of my private
7 part. And then I got up and left the room and I just -- I
8 left my little sister in there so I just remember trying to
9 gather all my courage to go back in there and grab my
10 sister. And then remember going in there to grab my little
11 sister and then going to lay by my mom passed out in the
12 living room. And then he just came out and cooked supper
13 and went back to bed. But I just remember being scared
14 because I didn't know what he was going to come out and do.
15 And I just laying there watching him and -- but he just
16 left me alone after that.

17 **TIAR WILSON:** M'hmm.

18 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Me and my dad fought about
19 that lots. I don't think the event was as traumatizing as
20 me and my dad fighting over it.

21 **TIAR WILSON:** So you told your dad about
22 what happened?

23 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah. And he let him keep
24 coming around. So I think that's what bothered me the
25 most. Because -- because when I was raped as an adult, I

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1 think my dad not believing me made me not want to charge
2 the person who raped me was a dad. Because it's not even
3 the events that I think about that hurt me. It's my dad
4 not believing me at the time. But, like, I -- my dad's a
5 really good dad and person when he's sober. And stuff just
6 change when he's under the influence. Yeah, the addictions
7 really take -- take a people -- take a person away.

8 **TIAR WILSON:** Is that your aunt on your
9 shirt?

10 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm, yeah.

11 **TIAR WILSON:** Do you know when that -- I
12 know you weren't born yet but has your aunt or anybody
13 explained the pullover?

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** No, I don't know where this
15 came from. I had asked for a specific photo where -- where
16 she's wearing a white dress but no-one could find that
17 photo at the time. And I bought all my sisters a -- a t-
18 shirt of Jennifer. So they got me this one. But, no, I
19 don't know when that photo was taken. I was just thinking
20 it looks really old because of her -- her floral shirt
21 there.

22 **TIAR WILSON:** That style's coming back.

23 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah, it is.

24 **TIAR WILSON:** Are you the only family
25 member? Or do you all guys have, like, shirts like that?

1 Do you wear shirts ---

2 **NATASHA ACOBY:** I'm the only one with Val.
3 They all have Jennifer t-shirts. Yeah. Yeah. I think I'm
4 done. I think I'm done crying for the day.

5 **TIAR WILSON:** Well, I just want to thank you
6 for the courage today.

7 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

8 **TIAR WILSON:** You revealed a lot. I'm sure
9 you probably didn't even think you'd reveal some of the
10 things you revealed today.

11 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

12 **TIAR WILSON:** I just need to ask, part of
13 our process is if you feel like you've been heard today.

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** If I feel like I've been
15 heard?

16 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

17 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah.

18 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

19 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

20 **TIAR WILSON:** I'd recommend then -- like,
21 you -- you didn't go into details about specific
22 investigations, and in particular, your aunt's case. He
23 went to jail, although not -- not -- I mean, you can't --
24 you can't -- no -- no matter what jail time, it's never
25 enough when you lose a loved one. So I just -- I think --

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1 I think this could be a public statement if you're okay
2 with it. Especially with the fact that your family wants
3 his name on the record.

4 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah, they really do. And
5 just the fact that his daughter did more time than him and
6 she didn't even take a life. So it's, like -- it just
7 seems wrong.

8 **TIAR WILSON:** Do you know what she's in jail
9 for?

10 **NATASHA ACOBY:** She first went in for
11 trafficking drugs. And then she was pregnant when she went
12 in and -- and they let her keep her child for the first
13 year. And then I think she was in that jail where they let
14 you keep your baby, and I think she said something about
15 sweats and stuff. And then she got caught smoking up so
16 they took that baby out of her hands the same day, and gave
17 the baby to her sister. And she turned around and starting
18 holding guards hostage and just freaking out after they
19 took her baby.

20 **TIAR WILSON:** M'hmm.

21 **NATASHA ACOBY:** That's why she got all that
22 time added on.

23 **TIAR WILSON:** Do you know when she's
24 supposed to get out, or ---

25 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Someone's saying she got out

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1 couple months ago but I talked to her about half a year ago
2 and said, "We're going to come visit you this summer." And
3 she was, like, "Oh, no, don't bother. I'm going to get
4 parole." But she says that to me every year so I just
5 assumed that's what they make her think, she's going to get
6 parole every year. And we heard from a -- a relative that
7 has his daughter in jail, that she got out. So, like, her
8 sister and brother in the city don't have no contact with
9 her. No-one has really no contact with her. So we don't
10 even know. We just heard from another relative that she
11 did get out. So ---

12 **TIAR WILSON:** Yeah. Okay. Thank you for
13 that as well.

14 **NATASHA ACOBY:** M'hmm.

15 **TIAR WILSON:** So if you're -- if you feel
16 like there's nothing else to say, we can end this.

17 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah, I -- I said what I had
18 to say.

19 **TIAR WILSON:** Needed to say.

20 **NATASHA ACOBY:** Yeah.

21 **TIAR WILSON:** Okay. I just need to close
22 here. Good afternoon, Commissioners. It's 3:16 P.M. on
23 Thursday, August 2, 2018. We just finished our statement
24 and I will be signing off now. We're in Winnipeg, of
25 course, at the Mamawi Ichi Itata Centre. Thanks. Did I

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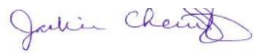
1 say my name again? It's Tiar Wilson if I didn't say it.

2

3 --- Upon adjourning at 3:20 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jackie Chernoff, 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.



Jackie Chernoff

September 9, 2018