

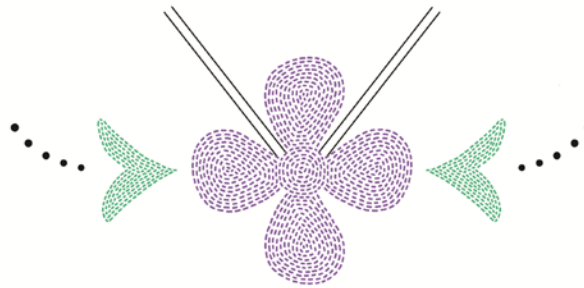
National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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  
Radisson Hotel**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba**



**PUBLIC**

**Thursday October 19, 2017**

**Statement - Volume 46  
Cheyenne Chartrand,  
In relation to Elizabeth St. Paul**

**Statement gathered by Alana Lee**

Coast Reporting Services Inc.

**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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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

**Statement - Public**  
**Cheyenne Chartrand**  
**(Elizabeth St. Paul)**

**1**

1 [OCTOBER 19, 2017, 3:28 P.M.]

2 ALANA LEE: Okay, this is Alana Lee with the National Inquiry  
3 into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and  
4 Girls, speaking on the record with Cheyenne --

5 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Chartrand.

6 ALANA LEE: We're here at the Radisson in  
7 Winnipeg, Manitoba, on October 19th, 2017, at  
8 about --

9 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: 3:28.

10 ALANA LEE: 3:28. Thank you. Cheyenne is a -- you're here  
11 voluntarily --

12 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

13 ALANA LEE: -- to give a statement? Okay. And you're going to  
14 be talking about your grandmother, Elizabeth St.  
15 Paul?

16 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

17 ALANA LEE: Okay. And you're okay on the record with us audio  
18 recording and video recording?

19 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

20 ALANA LEE: What would you like to tell me about Elizabeth, the  
21 Commissioners?

22 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Well, I guess just the basics at the  
23 beginning is that she's missing, and she's been  
24 missing --

25 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

**Statement - Public**  
**Cheyenne Chartrand**  
**(Elizabeth St. Paul)**

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1 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: -- for about 30 years now.

2 ALANA LEE: 30 years?

3 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep. And she's my mom's mom.

4 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

5 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: And she -- I never met her. I've never  
6 met her, but I'm here to -- just to talk about her  
7 and my family's experience on her behalf.

8 ALANA LEE: Okay.

9 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: She was a student at Pine Creek  
10 Residential School, and my mother worked at TRC,  
11 and we're the -- some of the things that happened  
12 in that school, we found a lot of our answers from  
13 other people, other students who went to the school  
14 and things like that, what happened in the  
15 beginning.

16 And so my grandma went to Pine Creek  
17 Residential School, and she was born January 13th,  
18 1927, and she was from Ebb and Flow, Manitoba, and  
19 in the residential school, she was a very pretty  
20 girl and she was taken into the priest's home and  
21 made as like a housekeeper, servant kind of person,  
22 I can't remember what it was they called her, but I  
23 remember they called the priest Father  
24 (unintelligible), and she got pregnant there, and  
25 she was fairly young and unmarried, and rather than

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1 blame him, they blamed her.

2 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

3 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: So the community that she was staying  
4 with, they took the babies from her, like they took  
5 my mom and my mom's sister, because she had twins,  
6 and she stuck around a little while to watch them  
7 and just to try and be close, and the family took  
8 them in and kind of pushed her away, and she left,  
9 and there was the minimal contact for a few years  
10 until she disappeared entirely about 30 years ago.

11 And from stories and stuff that we've heard  
12 from people who knew her, people who she wrote  
13 letters to, we think she died on the street. We  
14 don't know if -- like what had happened, we don't  
15 know of her addictions or anything like that, but  
16 we filed a missing person's report, and nobody  
17 really wanted to look for anybody, you know, she  
18 was like -- she was a Native woman, she was an  
19 adult, nobody is going to go look for her or find  
20 her, even though the sexual assault that had  
21 happened to her in the schools and the abuse and  
22 the trauma, nobody -- nobody did anything about it.  
23 It was her fault. A lot of people blamed her, even  
24 her own family blamed her. So that impacted --  
25 that impacted my family, you know, that impacted my

1 mom, that impacted how we were raised.

2 We looked for her, and she had a brother by  
3 the name of Norbert St. Paul who came and tried  
4 helping look for her, and he passed, and we think  
5 from the information that just we get -- like I  
6 don't know if you call it anecdotal information or  
7 just peoples where they seen her or what they've  
8 heard, we think she passed in Toronto as a Jane Doe  
9 or a Jane Smith or whatever they call them, like  
10 when nobody is there.

11 And the other children she had have passed  
12 on, the ones that we know about. But I wanted to  
13 make sure that her name was put down and that  
14 people remembered and -- because nobody went  
15 looking, like nobody went looking for her.

16 We asked -- truthfully the only people that  
17 helped us search for her were from the Salvation  
18 Army, and we got letters in and they would put out  
19 searches. I remember going online I don't know how  
20 many times looking through obituaries, looking  
21 through cemetery sites. I learned so much about  
22 stuff, looking at different cemeteries and people,  
23 where they were buried because we didn't know, you  
24 know, such a large span, it was like going through,  
25 I don't know, a needle in a haystack, and her name

1 never came up anywhere.

2 And I just -- it was really important to  
3 note that because when we live in like a  
4 matriarchal, matrilineal community, like our  
5 families, our people are like that, to have that  
6 piece missing. It was a really big deal because my  
7 mom grew up in abusive foster homes.

8 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

9 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: She was passed around from family to  
10 family and grew up thinking she was like a burden  
11 just because of what had happened to her mom. And  
12 she grew up thinking she didn't know how to parent,  
13 kind of thinking nobody really loved her. Her twin  
14 sister died when she was six, and they kind of made  
15 it like not a big deal.

16 ALANA LEE: So you had mentioned the priest, and you said that  
17 they called him --

18 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Father (unintelligible), which means like  
19 father that ruled.

20 ALANA LEE: Okay.

21 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yeah. And there were more complaints  
22 about him that were brought up, and this complaint  
23 in particular because when -- if it was found out  
24 that she was pregnant, and there were -- her  
25 grandmother was the one who came to get her from



1                   the school and pulled her out of the school to have  
2                   the babies.

3       ALANA LEE:    Okay.

4       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:  Because they think they were trying to  
5                   hide the pregnancy or hide the babies, and she  
6                   didn't want anything to happen to the babies.

7       ALANA LEE:    Okay.

8       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:  And she took her from the school, and what  
9                   the church did or the school or whoever ran the  
10                  Pine Creek school at the time did was they just  
11                  transferred him to Sagkeeng, so he -- and then  
12                  there's pictures of him in Sagkeeng, and there's  
13                  stories there of people and babies and stuff that  
14                  happened there.

15                        *[Twenty lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].*

16       ALANA LEE:    Okay.  And you had mentioned that one -- when  
17                    Elizabeth, so you knew that she came out of  
18                    residential school.  Do you know --

19       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:  Yep.

20       ALANA LEE:    Do you know around how old she was?

21       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:  I think she graduated -- like she went  
22                    right till she was 17, 18.

23       ALANA LEE:    Okay.

24       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:  Yeah.  Yeah.

25       ALANA LEE:    When did you -- when did you -- when did your

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1 family file the missing person's report?

2 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: I had a copy of the letter. I didn't

3 bring it. It was in the 80's, the early 80's.

4 ALANA LEE: Okay.

5 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: And she had already been missing for a

6 little while, and it was her brother who came and

7 said has anyone seen her, we haven't talked to her

8 in a few years. Yeah.

9 ALANA LEE: Okay. And you mentioned you think that she might

10 have possibly passed away in Toronto?

11 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep. Yeah, someone said that they had

12 last heard from her or seen her and she was living

13 in Toronto and she kind of living -- she was kind

14 of living -- when they saw her, the way that they

15 saw her, I guess appeared, it looked like she was

16 living on the street. And then so when we looked

17 through Toronto cemeteries, looked through like

18 Toronto and Ontario obituaries and stuff like that,

19 and her name was never like on any lists. Yeah.

20 ALANA LEE: How has this impacted your family as a whole?

21 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: It's a hole. Like why I'm here, why I'm

22 saying it, it's like this big hole, like. All we

23 talk about family, like I can't go oh, my grandma

24 this, my grandma that. Like it took quite a bit

25 when my mom first found out about her parentage,

1           when people finally came forward and told the  
2           truth, because there were a lot of -- there were a  
3           lot of stories made up about her.

4                        *[Three lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]*  
5           -- and that's one thing about our  
6           community is we protect abusers, and that's what  
7           they had done is they were protecting these  
8           abusers, and they were blaming her.

9                        And she grew up, and then when she finally  
10          found out, there was so much shame attached to it,  
11          and I -- like I try telling her that if she wasn't  
12          born, that I wouldn't be here, and my kids wouldn't  
13          be here, and she wouldn't have her grandchildren,  
14          to try and take away some of that shame because  
15          it's -- like it's unbelievable, you know,

16                       *[one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]*  
17          I know she questioned herself a lot of  
18          times about parenting, and you don't have that  
19          figure, the female role model, *[two lines redacted*  
20          *pursuant to Rule 55]* she did the best job that  
21          she could with what she knew. And I love her so  
22          much, and she's just -- she's not in a place  
23          physically, I think, or emotionally to tell that

1 story, but like it's one that does need to be told.  
2 [Three lines redacted pursuant to  
3 Rule 55] you have diseases or conditions  
4 and things like that, and you don't know  
5 where they come from or what they're about or what  
6 it is, and you end up spending -- she spent a lot  
7 of time in hospitals from -- right before she even  
8 had me, and they would -- she had certain  
9 conditions that Indigenous don't usually have, and  
10 they didn't know until they did all this digging  
11 so -- and then she's just -- there was a lot of  
12 depression because of things that happened, because  
13 homes that they put her in, she would be  
14 abused or just -- just like beaten and punished  
15 [four lines redacted pursuant  
16 to Rule 55].

17 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

18 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: [Three lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55],  
19 there's pieces of life and pieces of family that are  
20 missing. [Eight lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]  
21 there's like just the layers of shame  
22 that have had to be peeled off, just because you  
23 think why should -- you know, they should have  
24 known that that wasn't right and it wasn't okay.  
25 And it's just -- you realize how important that

1           that family is, that those people are, and now I  
2           just say that it's a part of our life that was  
3           interrupted, you know, a part of our family -- our  
4           family life, our family tree that there was an  
5           interruption and that -- we're coming back to that  
6           place and that good place and that healing place,  
7           and just learning so much, forgiving, but there's  
8           still like a lot of shame and guilt that's almost  
9           like the first response to a lot of things, the  
10          shame and guilt.

11       ALANA LEE:   Yep.

12       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:  Even though there's nothing to be guilty  
13          of, right?  To be ashamed of.  Learning how to not  
14          protect abusers, learning how to stand up, learning  
15          to be gentle with ourselves, right?  All those  
16          things -- yeah, it's just like -- just -- it's  
17          incredible how just taking that one person out of  
18          your life, you know, makes a big deal, because that  
19          grandma -- that grandmother is a crucial role, an  
20          important role, you know, it's supposed to be the  
21          head of their family, so we kind of -- it was like  
22          we were running around with no head of our family.

23       ALANA LEE:  Thank you.  That takes a lot of courage.  Thank you  
24          for sharing that.  I kind of want the Commissioners  
25          to know, we were talking a little bit before we had

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1                   the video on, and you were talking a little bit  
2                   about what you do for a living.

3       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yeah.

4       ALANA LEE: I think that's really important because, you know,  
5                   hearing your truth and then relating it to what  
6                   you're doing to give back to the community, that's  
7                   a big strength.

8       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: M-hm.

9       ALANA LEE: Thank you.

10      CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Thank you.

11      ALANA LEE: I wanted to kind of go back, when you said that you  
12                -- your family did the missing person's report.

13      CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: M-hm.

14      ALANA LEE: You mentioned that the Salvation Army had helped  
15                look, but nobody else helped look.

16      CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

17      ALANA LEE: Who did you put the missing person's into, with the  
18                R.C.M.P. or --

19      CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

20      ALANA LEE: -- the police -- the R.C.M.P.?

21      CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

22      ALANA LEE: Tell me about that experience.

23      CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: I was just a kid when they did that, but  
24                it was -- as far as my understanding was, it was  
25                just a piece of paper.

1 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

2 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: It was just a visit. It was just a piece  
3 of paper that was filled out, it was thank you very  
4 much, see you later. Like we never had any  
5 investigator come to the house. We never had any  
6 police come to the house. We never had any like  
7 suggestions of like a poster or something or  
8 canvassing or information or any kind of  
9 information like that.

10 There was no like -- any notice put out  
11 anywhere, it was just well, we'll put her into the  
12 system. We'll look and we'll see what we can find,  
13 and nobody ever came back and said anything.

14 ALANA LEE: There's been no follow-up or --

15 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: No.

16 ALANA LEE: No.

17 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: No, it was just the Salvation Army. We  
18 even went through doctors. We tried to go through  
19 doctors if she had ever been checked into a  
20 hospital anywhere or for -- like the health  
21 reasons, going through doctors and stuff, and  
22 actually it was just a couple of people from like  
23 Salvation Army who just tried, tried to help us,  
24 and we were getting nowhere.

25 If I knew then what I know now, like I

1                   would -- and I understand I was a child, but it  
2                   would have been so different. It would have been  
3                   so, so different. You know.

4       ALANA LEE: Tell me how.

5       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Well, today I know about media kits, and  
6                   today I know about making posters, and today I know  
7                   about advocating for people, advocating for myself,  
8                   working within systems and just harassing people  
9                   basically to go where is that information, where do  
10                  you go, who do you talk to.

11                         I had a job a few years ago, and we had a  
12                   girl who went missing, and the first thing we did  
13                   was we made flyers, and at the same time that we  
14                   were calling the police, you know, we were putting  
15                   her picture out there and stuff like that, and we  
16                   found her, you know, and then after that, somebody  
17                   else came and said my auntie is missing, I don't  
18                   know what to do, what do I do.

19       ALANA LEE: M-hm.

20       CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: You know, and after that, somebody else  
21                   came and said my daughter is missing, what do I do,  
22                   you know. And it's -- I don't -- I really don't  
23                   want to say like oh, it's a good thing I know what  
24                   to do. Like you learn the hard way.

25       ALANA LEE: Yeah.



1 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: You learn the hard way what to do and how  
2 to do it. And it's like not a skill that anybody  
3 should have, but because -- because there was  
4 nobody there really for us going through all that  
5 -- it's like -- we had a chance to be there for  
6 people, but yeah, even like -- even with the  
7 Salvation Army, it was just letters, it wasn't  
8 someone who came to the house or it wasn't a phone  
9 call or anything, it was just a letter saying,  
10 well, sorry, we tried.

11 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

12 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: You know how that feels and thinking that  
13 -- then I saw the -- all the press that say a  
14 non-Indigenous woman or girl would get, and I would  
15 be so jealous, I would be like well, how come they  
16 don't look that hard for my family. How come  
17 nobody cares about my family.

18 And I just -- it just breaks my heart when  
19 I think that maybe my grandma died on the street  
20 with nobody giving a shit about her. So we go  
21 here, we make food, we take food, like we don't  
22 tell anybody, we don't have to broadcast it, we go  
23 and give them some dignity, the people that live on  
24 the street, because like to me, that's somebody's  
25 grandma, that's somebody's mom, nobody said that

1                   when I grow up, I want to live on the street, you  
2                   know.

3                               I hate to think that she died feeling  
4                   ashamed at all of what had happened. I want her to  
5                   know that there's family -- you know, she's got  
6                   family, she's got great-grandchildren that are just  
7                   freaking awesome, and she did that, you know, and  
8                   that's her -- that's her blood, that's her blood  
9                   out there. So to me that's really important.

10   ALANA LEE: M-hm.

11   CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Because you're treating those people with  
12                   dignity. I said I wasn't going to ugly cry. I'm  
13                   just about there.

14   ALANA LEE: It's not ugly crying. Yeah. You're a pretty  
15                   crier. Tears are you so -- there's Kleenex right  
16                   there as well. I kind of just want to go back, if  
17                   it's okay.

18   CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

19   ALANA LEE: You mentioned that you found a lot of this out,  
20                   information about your grandmother, Elizabeth,  
21                   through the TRC.

22   CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

23   ALANA LEE: Can you tell me a bit about that process and what  
24                   that was like for your family and kind of how that  
25                   information came about.

1 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: My mom actually got a couple of different  
2 jobs with the TRC, just kind of basic in the  
3 beginning and -- because she could speak a few  
4 different languages, like a few different  
5 Indigenous languages.

6 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

7 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: And then as they got to know her, they got  
8 an idea of what she could do more and more, and so  
9 she got to go to different places, she got to meet  
10 different people, and coworkers got to know her,  
11 and it was actually a coworker who said, you know  
12 what, I met somebody who knew your mom. I met  
13 somebody who went to school with your mom. He's  
14 coming in. And she got to meet the first person  
15 that way. And she met a couple of other people,  
16 and she had these like little tidbits of truth.

17 And she went back to relatives who were  
18 still alive back then and challenged them because  
19 they were the ones who would spread the stories and  
20 said the not nice stuff, and she went to them and  
21 she said is this true, and one of them, thank  
22 goodness, like 'fessed up and said yeah, and told  
23 her a little bit more about what actually happened,  
24 that they remember, and because somebody else had  
25 come forward and told the truth about that.

1                   And then she -- after she found that out,  
2                   she kind of wanted to know more so she kept asking  
3                   and asking, and she would come home with this  
4                   information with like no one else to tell because  
5                   it's just the four of us. It's her, me, and my two  
6                   girls.

7                   And so she was sharing some of this with  
8                   me, and she -- we went to ceremony -- took me to  
9                   ceremony, like a sweat, and she got some of it up  
10                  there to talk about it because I think the first  
11                  feeling she started to have was shame about her  
12                  parentage and stuff like that that had happened and  
13                  being a product of residential school, literally.  
14                  And it took -- it took a couple of years for her to  
15                  process it before she could talk a little bit more  
16                  about it.

17                  *[Ten lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].*

18                  We just kept taking her to ceremony  
19                  and doing things and just trying to get  
20                  her to see that it was -- it wasn't the shameful  
21                  thing she thought it was, to be proud that she was  
22                  around and all the gifts she had and just us as a  
23                  family, we wouldn't be here without -- without  
24                  either of them, you know.

25                  Yeah, we learned a lot. We learned a lot.

1           We learned a lot about the family. We actually  
2           learned a lot about the priest. We learned he had  
3           a sister, you know, and when we went back to it, we  
4           tried to go back to it with like an open mind and  
5           an open heart [*two lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55*],  
6           and just call this -- this was what it was,  
7           you know.

8           [*Thirty-five lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

9           CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: We always lived in this little  
10           few block radius, moving from house to  
11           house until things just kind of settled down a  
12           little bit and we didn't move. We actually got a  
13           house. [*One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].  
14           I met my other siblings, all different  
15           lives, different lifestyles, different ways of  
16           growing up. None of us are really close. I think  
17           the closest one on my mom's side is my oldest  
18           brother, and we -- the kind of close we are is we  
19           were in line at Walmart and recognized each other  
20           and said hi, how are you doing, have a nice day,  
21           you know, take care of yourself, yeah, see you  
22           later.

23           ALANA LEE: Oh.

24           CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: And that's the extent of the relationship.  
25           That's the good relationship.

1 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

2 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yeah. So I mean, that definitely impacts,  
3 you know, that's definitely an impact, to have  
4 blood family out there that just you -- would walk  
5 past you on the street.

6 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

7 [Seven lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

8 ALANA LEE: What do you think might have helped Elizabeth, your  
9 grandmother?

10 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Oh, gosh, just -- just a way to stay  
11 connected, like if there's like a database or  
12 something for people -- like I know in Edmonton  
13 now, they do this DNA thing, that they collect DNA,  
14 you know, something like that or just -- so many  
15 things, you know, so many things.

16 There were -- there are always so many  
17 points where something could have happened and  
18 somebody could have like given a shit, you know,  
19 and even if they were talking openly about  
20 residential schools and what had happened, you  
21 know, and just teaching kids that what happened  
22 wasn't their fault, you know, because that's what  
23 she was. Not being shame based, right, or like a  
24 nonjudgmental way of keeping track of people.

25 ALANA LEE: Yeah.

1 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yeah.

2 ALANA LEE: And that kind of leads me into the next question I  
3 wanted to ask you. And you've named some. And  
4 maybe if you're comfortable, I'll ask you to speak  
5 a little bit about what you do for your work as  
6 well, but really just in your opinion, what can we  
7 do to better things for our future generations?

8 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Oh, lots. Like lots, and it starts with  
9 our young people, because people really dismiss our  
10 young people right now and our -- and the pain, and  
11 I think about some of the kids and they're getting  
12 treated the same way that probably my grandma was  
13 treated in residential school, you know, in foster  
14 homes, and the abuse.

15 I think one of the best things I ever heard  
16 was a grandma say -- she was a residential school  
17 survivor, too, and I just -- it's like I gravitated  
18 to those old grannies that are survivors, and she  
19 said the mode of transmission of our teachings and  
20 our way didn't die and it wasn't hidden.

21 She said what changed was the message. She  
22 said the message that was passed on, she says, was  
23 silence. She said we taught you about silence. We  
24 taught you to be silent about things, about abuse.  
25 We taught you to be silent about the things that

1           happened to you. She said don't let that be what  
2           we leave behind. She said don't let that be what I  
3           leave behind. She said let that die with me.

4                     She said, and you talk, she said, and you  
5           share, and you tell, she said, and it doesn't  
6           matter if they tell you to be quiet or anything,  
7           she said, you tell, and that's just what I wish  
8           people would do with our young people is just tell,  
9           you know, just talk.

10   ALANA LEE: M-hm.

11   CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Because it's like -- you hear too many  
12           times be quiet, don't say that, don't cause a  
13           ruckus, don't cause -- don't be any trouble. And  
14           they're not. It's our future, hey? Like my  
15           grandma was -- my grandma was part of somebody  
16           else's future. People are forgetting that.

17                     People are forgetting that our young people  
18           are -- how important they are, and I see our kids  
19           going into homes that are different nations, and  
20           they're learning languages that aren't their own,  
21           and that's -- that's just a reality, and I wish  
22           they'd learn their own language. I wish they would  
23           learn their own way.

24                     I work for a place that has four group  
25           homes, and I help them do their spiritual care,



1           their sweat lodges and full moons and stuff like  
2           that, and they -- they're never told that they're  
3           gifts, you know.

4           *[Sixteen lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].*

5           We took the kids, we did, we took the kids  
6           out to the bush, and they might not have listened  
7           the way that we think they would listen, but they  
8           were there, and they touched the earth and they  
9           looked at the trees and they saw the medicine, and  
10          they knew that that was part of them, you know, so  
11          that that education is important. Those  
12          opportunities are important.

13                    Opportunities just to be because they've  
14           forgotten all about blood memory. They've  
15           forgotten blood memory. And they think that that's  
16           just a thing, they think that that's just a thing  
17           that we used -- we used to have or a pretty  
18           Nietzsche term, you know, a romanticized idea, but  
19           it's not that, it's that thing that calls you, it's  
20           the part inside of you that calls you, and I just  
21           wish they were given more credit for being the  
22           beautiful people that they are.

23                    You know, I don't even know -- like people  
24           say education is important, and education comes in  
25           so many ways. People learn different ways, and you

1 know, those ways need to be validated, it's not  
2 just a piece of paper, and you don't just need a  
3 piece of paper to tell you that you're smart.

4 My mom -- my mom didn't even have a Grade  
5 12, but she could speak five Indigenous languages.

6 ALANA LEE: Wow.

7 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: You know, like you don't need me to be  
8 sitting here telling you you're smart. Like I've  
9 worked -- and I work in postsecondary education to  
10 help transition people from community to school,  
11 but you know, some people are brilliant and aren't  
12 even given the credit for being that brilliant.

13 One of the things that I learned was that  
14 when a baby is born, they used to light a fire, and  
15 when that baby was coming, the same way we light a  
16 fire when somebody goes home, and it's to call that  
17 spirit in, and we don't do that anymore, hey, and I  
18 think that's what's missing is that little fire  
19 inside --

20 ALANA LEE: M-hm.

21 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: -- our people, because it wasn't there at  
22 the beginning, and some people, it might not seem  
23 like a big deal, but it's a big deal. You have no  
24 fire inside of you. And we have such a beautiful  
25 people and a beautiful way of knowing things and

1           doing things, and you know, we think about -- like  
2           I wish I could have learned from my grandma, you  
3           know, there's things that we tell people, go back  
4           to your family and find out what they did, what  
5           they used to do, find out what the practices they  
6           used to do or, you know, because we're not like all  
7           one. We're so different. We are about our family.

8                         And like I wish I could do that, you know,  
9           pieces. But I go look, and I think it's more than  
10          just this building or this institution or this  
11          resource that they need, I think it's just that  
12          understanding and the importance of going back and  
13          looking back in order to go forward, [*fourteen*  
14          *lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

15                        You know, and you just need people out  
16          there who will say, you know what, come with me,  
17          we'll go figure this out.

18   ALANA LEE:   Yep.

19   CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:  Come with me, we'll go.  We'll go to  
20          ceremony, come with me, we'll go to a pow-wow, come  
21          with me, we'll go, we'll go fishing, you know.  
22          Just kind people, regular people, you know, with  
23          open minds and open hearts that know and understand  
24          real Canadian history.

25   ALANA LEE:   Yeah.

1 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: You know, not the little white-washed  
2 version that we're fed, but like real Canadian  
3 history, you know, that -- you know, that even --  
4 like I'm not trying to be rude again, but even the  
5 money for this inquiry is coming because our  
6 relatives died, like our relatives died, our moms  
7 died, our sisters died, you know, our aunties, our  
8 grandmas died, just so people know.

9 ALANA LEE: Yeah.

10 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: And can't pretend that they don't know.  
11 I'm good. I'm done. That was like a big tangent.

12 ALANA LEE: No, thank you for that. Thank you for that. Thank  
13 you for, number one, being courageous enough to,  
14 you know, come and speak to the inquiry, but the  
15 other piece is the piece of knowledge I'm going to  
16 carry with me that you just shared with me, so I  
17 didn't know that about the fires, and it makes so  
18 much sense and I'm going to think about that, and I  
19 probably will share that with my own children, too,  
20 so like thank you for that.

21 Is there anything else you would like the  
22 Commissioners to know, anything else that you would  
23 like to add?

24 CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yeah, maybe just one more like -- because  
25 I don't know if people talk about it in different

1            areas, but we talk about seven generations and  
2            people go oh, it's a term that people throw out  
3            there, but I mean really like -- and it's all the  
4            stuff that I did go learn that I find stuff out,  
5            and I work as a doula, and I trained as a doula.

6            ALANA LEE:    Wow.

7            CHEYENNE CHARTRAND:    So I learned about life and babies and  
8            stuff like that, and it sounds corny, but like you  
9            were inside your grandmother, you know, because  
10           your grandmother carried your mother and babies'  
11           reproductive organs are formed while they're still  
12           in the womb, so the little egg that made say me,  
13           the little egg that made me was inside my  
14           grandmother, so I'm part of my grandmother, and my  
15           grandmother, Elizabeth St. Paul, was inside of her  
16           grandmother, right?

17                            So right there, that's five generations,  
18           and then so the ones that prayed for us were the  
19           ones before, they prayed for these ones here, so  
20           that's seven, right, and right now, that piece is  
21           missing, you know, my grandma is missing, and  
22           that's not nothing. That's an interruption of that  
23           seven, and what happens to one, you know, affects  
24           all, all of this.    Yep.

25                            So it's really, really important, and it

1                   might sound like a pretty saying, but it's very,  
2                   very real. I think it's very important. Yeah, so  
3                   that's what I just -- the one more thing I wanted  
4                   to say. Thanks for listening.

5   ALANA LEE: Thank you. And if that's it --

6   CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

7   ALANA LEE: Well, again, thank you on behalf of the inquiry.  
8 This is Alana Lee, statement provider, and I forgot  
9                   to mention at the beginning that we have our health  
10                  support here with us.

11   BELINDA LACOMBE: Belinda Lacombe.

12   ALANA LEE: Thank you, Belinda, and it is 4:12.

13   CHEYENNE CHARTRAND: Yep.

14   ALANA LEE: And we're going to conclude the statement.

15                   [PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 4:12 P.M.]

16

17                   I, Vicki Webster, Official Reporter in the  
18                   Province of British Columbia, Canada, do  
19                   hereby certify:

20                   That this is a true and accurate transcript  
21                   of these proceedings recorded on  
22                   sound-recording apparatus, transcribed to  
23                   the best of my skill and ability in  
24                   accordance with applicable standards.

25                   IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
26                   subscribed my name this 12th day of April  
27                   2018.

28

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Webster  
Official Reporter

29