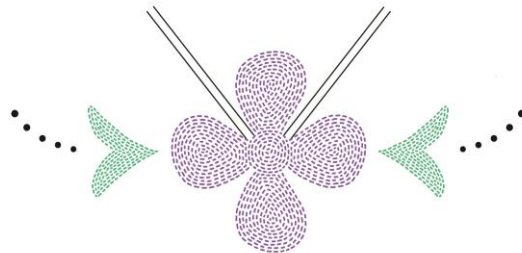


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Nuu-Chah-Nulth MMIWG Gathering
Tseshaht First Nation [Ts'ishaa7ath] - Maht Maws
Port Alberni, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Tuesday September 12, 2017

Statement - Volume 173

**Stanley Matthew,
In relation to Mary Matthew**

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

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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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Reporter's certification 36

Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

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2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, September 12, 2017

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** First, could we start
4 with your full legal name please?

5 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Stanley Reuben
6 Matthew.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And R-u-b-e-n, for
8 your ---

9 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** R-e-u-b-e-n.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** R-e-u-b-e-n, and
11 Matthew, M-a-t-t-h-e-u?

12 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** M-a-t-t-h-e-w.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** --- h-e-w, sorry, yes.
14 And can you tell me your date of birth?

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** July 18, 1962.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And where do you
17 presently reside?

18 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Here in Port Alberni.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
20 the name of the person you've come to talk about today?

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Mary Matthew.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if Mary
23 had a middle name?

24 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I'm not too sure of
25 that.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Do you know
2 Mary's date of birth?

3 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** She was roughly around
4 maybe 45, maybe 40, when she passed away. I'm not too sure
5 of her birthdate.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What's your relation
7 to Mary?

8 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Brother.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You're her brother.
10 And was she older or younger?

11 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Older.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** She was older. Do you
13 know how much older than you?

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I was 16 when she
15 passed away and she was probably in her forties, early
16 forties.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And so was Mary
18 missing or was she murdered?

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** She was murdered.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** She was murdered. Was
21 she understood to be missing for a period before it was
22 determined that she was murdered?

23 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** No, it was discovered
24 pretty quick.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Do you know the

1 date that she was murdered?

2 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** It was 1978 around
3 this time, September or August.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And was there a
5 suspect in her murder? Did the police have a suspect?

6 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** It's never been --
7 it's never been solved, yeah.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** It's never been solved
9 and you're not aware of them having a suspect?

10 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** No, not that I know
11 of, no.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Have you or has
13 anybody else ever suspected someone?

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Oh, we've never
15 suspected anyone because it was on East Hastings where it
16 happened, yeah, yeah.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So East Hastings,
18 Vancouver?

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so can you explain
21 to me your experience starting from the beginning for you?

22 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Okay, so yeah, in 1978
23 my older sister came, sat with our family and let us know
24 that our older sister had passed away and died. And at
25 that time, they don't know what happened. Then one of our

1 uncles came from Ucluelet to Nanaimo and he was determined
2 to find out what happened. He went over to Vancouver, he
3 walked East Hastings talking to people, trying to find out
4 what happened, and he came back to Nanaimo a few days later
5 and with nothing. Like, he couldn't get any information at
6 all.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So Stanley, you said
8 your older sister came to advise, the oldest sister?

9 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Older, her name was
10 Judy Matthew. She's now deceased.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And she came to advise
12 the family here?

13 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** In Nanaimo, in
14 Nanaimo, yeah.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** In Nanaimo.

16 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And then your uncle,
18 sorry.

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** My uncle Jack Patrick,
20 our uncle Jack Patrick, again ---

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Patrick is his last
22 name?

23 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** That's his last name,
24 yeah, and he's now deceased. He's been deceased for a
25 while, but he had a really close relationship with our

1 family and as soon as he found out that our sister had
2 passed away he came to see us and, like I said, went
3 straight over to Vancouver.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Where did he come
5 from, again?

6 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Ucluelet.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** How to you spell that?

8 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** U-c-l-u-e-l-e-t.
9 Ucluelet.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And that was where he
11 was residing at the time?

12 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And he came to ---

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Nanaimo.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** To Nanaimo and offered
16 ---

17 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah, yeah, just kind
18 of sat with us and then he left to Vancouver because he
19 wanted to find out what happened. So he may have spoken
20 with the police; I'm not too sure.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And you said that he
22 didn't find anything?

23 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Not anything; like,
24 they don't -- they know -- my uncle knew that she was
25 killed but didn't know by who, yeah.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. So how did you
2 find out what your uncle knew? Did he come back?

3 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** He came back and met
4 with us as a family.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** After he went to
6 Vancouver?

7 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah, yeah.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And what
9 details do you remember about what he told the family?

10 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I remember him saying
11 there was a bad -- my sister was brutally beaten. That's
12 my words. But he said she was beaten really bad and for
13 her funeral service we couldn't open her coffin.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember if he
15 said anything about (inaudible) when he went to Vancouver
16 to try to find more about ---

17 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** He did, like I know he
18 did. Like I said, I remember him being really determined
19 and was upset that this had happened to her, and wanted to
20 find out what happened. And that's all we ever really knew
21 was that she was brutally assaulted and that's all we knew.
22 And of course we couldn't have an open casket service for
23 her.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm. So other than
25 from your uncle did you learn anything else about the

1 situation?

2 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah, it was kind of
3 left at that. Nothing was ever -- you know, my older
4 sisters who have all passed on now, always talked about it,
5 but I know they didn't follow through with looking more
6 into it.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** One of the purposes of
8 the Inquiry is to determine any systemic problems that led
9 to the vulnerability of your sister in this case. So were
10 there any family circumstances that caused her to be in the
11 east side?

12 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Lifestyle, right,
13 addiction; alcohol caused her to be over on the East
14 Hastings. She was a chronic alcoholic.

15 As I grew older and sobered up and cleaned
16 myself up, I started to understand how come she was over
17 there, the history of and impact of residential school and
18 colonization. Yeah, so my sister was -- she wasn't a
19 pleasant lady. She was always grumpy. Yeah, but now years
20 later I understand how come.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so you mention
22 residential schools. Did Mary attend at a residential
23 school?

24 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes, yes.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay.

1 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I'm not too sure if it
2 was this one or the Meare's Island one.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What was the other
4 one?

5 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Meare's Island. It's
6 called Kakawis, K-a-k-a-w-i-s Residential School.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And the residential
8 school here in Nuu Chah Nulth, what was ---

9 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** This one was the
10 Alberni Indian Residential School.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know anything
12 about Mary's time in residential schools? Was it ever
13 talked about?

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** From what I've heard
15 from older people now, is that she was pretty quiet and her
16 brother, our older brother, both of them were at
17 residential school, and both quiet. And some of the older
18 people have said they were always picked on and people
19 would -- some people would try and protect them. So I'm
20 assuming my sister was probably sexually abused.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay.

22 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Because she was tiny;
23 she was probably 4 feet, maybe 4 feet 2 or 3, so she was a
24 tiny person.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you know if she

1 talked to people about her experiences?

2 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Too busy drinking.

3 Yeah, she was miserable and was always intoxicated, yeah.

4 And I remember that. I remember the rare times that she

5 was sober and I spent time with her. Those are the rare

6 times where I have good memories of her. All the other

7 times she was always drinking.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And were there any

9 other contributors to how she turned out?

10 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I'd say probably the

11 main one would have been the impact of residential school.

12 Yeah, yeah and that led to her addiction cycle.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** How were your parents

14 and your family structure?

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Parents were pretty

16 strict. They are both gone now. They were both -- I think

17 it was my mother that went to residential school. So they

18 were strict and the house rules were kind of like res

19 school right, to bed by 7:00, up by six, seven o'clock,

20 chores, yeah.

21 Other than that, they too had addiction

22 issues, both my parents. But when sober they ensured that

23 the family was taken care of and had lots of food and

24 clothing. What was left after all the shopping of

25 groceries and clothing, was their money to party. And I

1 remember the house parties would get pretty violent.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** These were at the
3 house where you resided?

4 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** The house where we
5 resided. So I witnessed -- I never ever witnessed the
6 sister that was murdered being physically harmed by my
7 parents, but I do recall witnessing one sister always being
8 physically harmed by my parents.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What were your
10 parents' names?

11 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** My father was Andrew
12 David and my mother was Lucy Matthew.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And just to set out
14 your family could you tell me your siblings from the oldest
15 to the youngest?

16 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Oldest to the youngest
17 would be [Sister 1], Esther, Judy, [Sister 2] and myself,
18 and then there would have been the older -- Mary would have
19 probably been one of the oldest and then our brother Tony
20 would have been up at the top, the oldest.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Tony was the oldest?

22 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And Mary was just
24 under him?

25 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Under him, yes.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. I just want to
2 be clear, was [Sister 1] then the third oldest?

3 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** No, actually [Sister
4 1] -- no she's older than my brother so she's actually the
5 oldest. She's 88.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, [Sister 1]'s the
7 oldest then Tony ---

8 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah, then Mary and
9 Esther, Judy ---

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** [Sister 2]?

11 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Oh, Esther, [Sister
12 3], [Sister 2] then me.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And you mentioned a
14 Judy?

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** So it would have went
16 okay, [Sister 1], Tony, Mary, Esther, Judy, [Sister 3],
17 [Sister 2], Stan.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And which of
19 your sisters did you see subjected to violence by your
20 parents?

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Judy.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** It was Judy?

23 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what did that
25 entail?

1 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** It was pretty violent.
2 Like, it was always when, when parents were intoxicated.
3 They would physically just like, physically just throw my
4 sister around the room and punch her and hit her and kick
5 her.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You mentioned that
7 your parents had addictions?

8 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Was that specifically
10 alcohol?

11 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Alcohol, alcohol yeah,
12 mainly alcohol.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And so how did
14 Mary end up on the East Side, do you know?

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** That's some -- well I
16 remember we all live in Nanaimo. She had her own place and
17 somehow one way or another she just went over to Vancouver
18 and stayed there, and just stayed over there, yeah. M'hm.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know what she
20 was doing when she was in Vancouver? How she ---

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** She would have been --
22 she would have survived by income assistance, welfare,
23 yeah.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And as for yourself,
25 did you suffer violence from your family as well?

1 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Just witnessing
2 violence. Once my sister physically assaulted, that was
3 once, my sister Esther. And again, that was during a house
4 party at our place and my sister just kind of snapped and I
5 became the brunt of her frustration. But years later after
6 I sobered up, I was able to sit with her and talk with her
7 about it, resolve my own personal awareness of it, and how
8 come it happened.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so as for yourself
10 you've mentioned that you had alcohol addiction as well?

11 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I did. From 13 up
12 until I was 25.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And how did that start
14 for you at 13?

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** It actually started
16 with the sister Judy that I was talking about. We were
17 sitting in the field one day and she told me I was drinking
18 orange juice and the orange juice started to taste pretty
19 good. That was my first experience with alcohol and I was
20 nine.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so then after that
22 point how did you have access to the alcohol?

23 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Through friends,
24 right. I had a bit of a criminal history when I was
25 younger. I used to do B&Es and shoplifting. And one near

1 my friend, his dad was some president of a big company and
2 they stored all of the alcohol in their basement, just like
3 hundreds and hundreds of cases of beer so we would go help
4 ourselves, just sneak them out of their house. So it was
5 always accessible.

6 Well, it wasn't hard to find somebody; you
7 know we would even stand outside the liquor store and say,
8 "Hey, can you get us a couple of cases of beer?" Yeah,
9 people would do it. People would do it.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so you mentioned
11 that was until 25. What happened for you then?

12 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** At 25? My life -- I
13 had tried to quit three times previously when I was 18, 20,
14 21 and then finally at 25. By that time I had had a son
15 and his mom and I were separated. It was his birthday and
16 she phoned and asked if I would come to the birthday party.
17 I said, "Yes", but in my fridge I had three cases of beer
18 and I stayed home, just got totally wasted by myself. Woke
19 up the next day, realized what I did, realized that I
20 missed my own son's birthday because I would have rather
21 drank, and that's when I realized that I can't, I can't do
22 this anymore, I can't.

23 I started thinking about my mom, I started
24 thinking about my dad, started thinking about our late
25 sister. Our mom died from drinking, our dad died from

1 drinking, our sister was a result of drinking. And I
2 started thinking about that and I thought I can't die on my
3 son.

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

5 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** So it was an eye-
6 opener. It was heart-wrenching to realize what I was doing
7 to my own child and growing up saying I'm never ever going
8 to be like my parents, and I was headed down the same path.
9 So it took that, missing his birthday party, for me to
10 realize that yeah, there's more to life than drinking. So
11 it's been 30 years.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you do that on
13 willpower alone or did you have assistance? How did you
14 deal with that?

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** The Friendship Centre
16 in Nanaimo, I had done work for them, summer work for them,
17 at their summer camps so I knew that they had services.
18 And I wasn't far from the Friendship Centre so I walked
19 down and I just said, "I need help."

20 The executive director knew my family really
21 well. My father -- he used to look after her husband's
22 fish boat, so she was really familiar with the history of
23 our family. And, she said, "I was wondering when you were
24 going to come." She knew, right?

25 And then through the guidance and support of

1 them they encouraged me to go back to school, finish my
2 schooling and then after completing Adult Basic Education,
3 again the executive director, Grace sat with me and said,
4 "We want you to take the Alcohol and Drug Counselling
5 Training Program." They said, "You don't meet the
6 requirements. You need to be one year sober, but we're
7 going to accept you anyway as an audit student."

8 So I was six months sober when I went into
9 the Counselling Treatment Program. So they were a big
10 support. And then the 12-Step Program with Alcoholics
11 Anonymous was a huge, huge support for me and then through
12 that journey I made lots of friends ---

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** A lot of friends.

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** --- who will guide me
15 and support me and still do today.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so of all your
17 family members, did any of them avoid alcohol addiction or
18 drug addiction on your immediate family or siblings?

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** No.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** No?

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I have one sister, the
22 one up from me, Phyllis. She did drink some but not a lot
23 like some of us did where we got blacked-out drunk and
24 falling down. She did experiment, but for whatever reason
25 she just chose not to. But she did, she did, yeah but I

1 think she was keen enough to know that she couldn't do
2 that.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did any of your
4 other siblings overcome their addictions?

5 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** My brother, Tony. He
6 sobered up after our sister Judy passed away. They were
7 really close. He looked after my sister and he kind of
8 looked after her and she kind of looked after him. When
9 she passed away it was -- he knew that he lost something so
10 he decided to make a change and stayed sober right up until
11 he passed away.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did Judy's passing
13 have something to do with her addiction?

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** No, it wasn't because
15 she had been sober for quite a while before she passed
16 away, so she sobered up too. After the service and
17 everything her daughter got a phone call from her family
18 doctor and said, "I want to meet with you."

19 So my niece called me and said, "I have to
20 meet with the doctor; can you come with me?"

21 I went, "Sure." So we went and met with her
22 late mom's family doctor and she disclosed to us that she
23 had died from [redacted - personal information]. And
24 during [redacted - personal information] our sister Judy
25 didn't want people to know that she was dying.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Sad. What was Judy's
2 daughter's name?

3 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** [T.].

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** [T.]?

5 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** She's now [T.S.]. I
6 was trying to get her to come but she says, "Oh, I can't
7 get the time off"; because she remembers our sister. She
8 would have been probably, maybe three or four, but she
9 remembers Mary, yeah, yeah.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** She's fairly healthy?

11 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** She doesn't drink, do
12 drugs or smoke.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I know that you're
14 here alone. Are there any other family members that want
15 to share their experience of Mary?

16 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I could check with my
17 sister that lives here and kind of see where she's at and
18 if she's willing to I can get her registered. And she
19 might, she might not; I'm not too sure because we've never
20 really talked about it after it happened. There wasn't
21 really much discussion after the older sisters passed away.
22 It just kind of went with them, yeah.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. You know how to
24 contact us?

25 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes, yes.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** If she decides that
2 she wants to and I just want to let you know too that if
3 she doesn't come to that realization this week, but she
4 does down the road, you have my contact number and feel
5 free to have her call me.

6 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Okay, I'll do that,
7 yeah.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Do you have any
9 documents related to Mary's death?

10 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I'll have to -- my
11 niece has all the photo albums, and her late mom Judy had
12 lots of photo albums of our family. So I did ask her for --
13 -- to look for some pictures that I was going to put in the
14 shrine, but I will check with her to see if there's like an
15 obituary or anything like that, that my sister might have
16 kept.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And this niece is
18 [T.]?

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** [T.], yeah, yeah.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Are there any other
21 documents that you're aware of?

22 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Not that I'm aware of,
23 no, no.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So I have a series of
25 questions I'm going to ask you just to make sure that we've

1 covered all the bases.

2 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Okay.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You describe that
4 given your family dynamics you witnessed domestic violence
5 in your home. Do you know if Mary witnessed domestic
6 violence in the home?

7 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I don't know in the
8 home, but she had domestic violent relationships.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you know the
10 nature of those relationships or is just more things you've
11 heard?

12 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** There were personal
13 boyfriend/ girlfriend relationships.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you know these
15 boyfriends?

16 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I don't really
17 remember them. I remember one; his name was [Mary's Ex-
18 Boyfriend]. That's all I knew, and he would assault her.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you see the
20 assaults or did she tell you and your family?

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** We would see her
22 after, after, like she'd come home and we'd see the black
23 eyes and the bruises.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Was she coming home to
25 have time away from [Mary's Ex-Boyfriend] to ---

1 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Probably to have time
2 away and just to come see Mom, right? Yeah.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if Mary
4 suffered any sexual abuse?

5 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I'm assuming from
6 residential school.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you know if
8 Mary experienced any racism in school or the health care
9 system, or in her community?

10 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Again, I'd go back to
11 residential school and probably the community where we grew
12 up in Nanaimo.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I'm just refreshing my
14 memory here. Uncle Jack Patrick ---

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know when he
17 went to Vancouver if while he was trying to gain answers,
18 did he experience any racism?

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** He was pretty blunt.
20 Like, he was always straightforward with -- I remember that
21 about him. He was really straightforward and blunt with
22 people, so probably, he probably did but I know he wouldn't
23 let that affect him. Yeah.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did Mary or anyone
25 else in your family suffer effects from the child welfare

1 system such as being taking out of the care of the family?

2 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** All of us did.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** All of you?

4 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you tell a little
6 bit more about how that occurred?

7 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Oh, God. Okay, let's
8 see now. I remember from talking with my sisters it
9 actually started when I was about two years old being
10 removed by what is now called the Ministry of Children and
11 Families and put into foster homes.

12 So that would have been myself, [Sister 2],
13 Judy, Esther, [Sister 3]; I think Tony might have been too
14 old, older by then. So I remember all of us being removed
15 from the home. I remember foster homes, running away from
16 the foster homes to try and get back home. I was always
17 placed with my sister [Sister 2] and the other sisters were
18 placed other places, but for whatever reason my sister
19 [Sister 2] and I were always placed together in the same
20 foster home. That went on until I was about nine.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you suffer any
22 abuse in foster care?

23 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Oh yeah, like physical
24 abuse, mental abuse. I don't know if I've blocked sexual
25 abuse, but I've gone through lots of therapy and my own

1 personal assessment is I probably was but I just haven't
2 got to that place yet.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you know if
4 your other siblings also suffered abuses?

5 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Probably mental abuse.
6 I wouldn't know about sexual if there was or not, but I do
7 know because I was with [Sister 2], that we were mentally
8 abused and just like we'd always be made to do chores like
9 all day long and treated really meanly by our foster family
10 like the brothers and sisters.

11 I remember being like five and a bigger
12 older foster brother -- we were playing outside and he was
13 making me eat what are called wood bugs, forced me to eat
14 those wood bugs, yeah, so mental abuse.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So do you have ideas
16 about the types of issues that fed into these problems that
17 you all experienced as children growing up? What are your
18 experiences there?

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Well, I know where I
20 was removed because of my parents drinking and then in the
21 homes I think it was just the system back then wasn't
22 monitored as well as it is now. So I know there's been
23 some major changes in the system of foster care, whereas
24 back then I'm assuming that there really wasn't guidelines
25 or anything like that. They just put us wherever they

1 could put us.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did poverty feed
3 into these problems as well?

4 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Later on after our dad
5 passed away, my mom was the sole provider so we grew up on
6 income assistance.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Was Mary still living
8 at home at that time?

9 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** She would have been
10 older; like she would have been older than all of us, so
11 she was around. Yeah, she was around but she probably
12 would have been beyond foster care age.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Were there any
14 presence or absence of positive influences that you recall
15 from that time that we haven't already discussed?

16 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** The presence of
17 positive influence? Our Uncle Jack Patrick was a real kind
18 caring person who just really loved our family. Again, he
19 just -- I know as a child that he just loved us and he'd be
20 that unconditional love. He always came and spent time
21 with us and would take us out to dinner or back then there
22 was wrestling. He'd take us to wrestling, mainly him. And
23 then our sister [Sister 1] would always come and visit us.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what do you
25 remember about visits from [Sister 1]?

1 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** They were always
2 pleasant, always happy. Again, kind of the same loving
3 caring kind of nature towards us.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Returning for a moment
5 to the circumstances of Mary's death, are there any other
6 circumstances that you're aware of around that tragedy that
7 contributed to it?

8 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Like I was saying in
9 the beginning, just mostly the alcohol and I think probably
10 her own personal traumatic history caused her to become
11 addicted.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know anything
13 about the police involvement in the investigation?

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I don't know a lot and
15 that's again, that's when her Uncle Jack went over and I
16 don't really know what their involvement was. I know they
17 were involved but we were never informed of if they
18 actually caught that person that murdered her.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if the
20 coroners were involved?

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I'm assuming they
22 probably were because like I was saying, we couldn't open
23 the casket.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if any
25 other institutions were involved? For instance, did she

1 have any children?

2 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Oh yes, she did. My
3 mom raised her daughter [Mary's Daughter]. [She] is
4 probably around my age maybe 55, 57 now, maybe a couple of
5 years older or around the same age. We haven't seen her
6 for 10, maybe 15 years and she went on the same pattern as
7 her mom, and the last location of her was on East Hastings.
8 We haven't seen her. We don't know how she is or where she
9 is.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember how
11 old she was at the time of her mother's death?

12 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** So I was 16, so she
13 would have been around the same age maybe 16, 18. So she
14 was raised by our mom. She wasn't raised by her mom, Mary.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** She was raised by her
16 grandmother?

17 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yeah, yeah.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if there
19 were any of the following elements involved in her death --
20 gangs?

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** No gangs.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** No human trafficking?

23 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** No human trafficking
24 that I'm aware.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Was she impoverished

1 at the time?

2 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Probably, because like
3 I was saying she was on income assistance down on East
4 Hastings. Yeah.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if she had
6 any access to supports to try to assist her out of the
7 situation she was in?

8 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I don't know if she
9 ever did or if she ever tried.

10 *(Witness requests a break).*

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Sure. We can take a
12 quick break. I'll just hit pause.

13 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Okay. I'll be right
14 back.

15 --- Upon recessing

16 --- Upon resuming

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** With respect to your
18 experience and the experience of your siblings and your
19 parents and Mary, do you know if your family moved to
20 Nanaimo to have better access to services?

21 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** When I did my
22 counsellor training we had to do what was called a family
23 reconstruction. So when I went home to Tofino to find out
24 some of my family history what I found out from a couple of
25 the elders back home was my dad moved us from Opitsaht to

1 here and then to Nanaimo. It was because he didn't want us
2 to attend residential school but my sisters ended up going
3 anyway so, yeah.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So your father moved
5 to avoid attendance. Do you know what compelled the
6 attendance at the residential school?

7 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I don't know how my
8 sisters ended up there, but I know they did go -- Judy,
9 [Sister 3], Esther; I'm not too sure if [Sister 2] went. I
10 didn't go.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So with Mary do you
12 think that there could have been supports that might have
13 helped her avoid her ---

14 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** There probably was,
15 probably not abundance of support but there probably was
16 some. From what I know a person has to want it, have help
17 and change. I think if she had somebody supporting her,
18 encouraging her to get well, she may have. Much like
19 myself, right? I had support where people would say, "You
20 know Stan, you should really think about quitting
21 drinking." And I'm hoping if she might have had that kind
22 of support it might have been different. Yeah.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if your
24 family in the new generations are continuing to experience
25 violence?

1 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Not now. My two
2 sisters are older now. I know they're not experiencing any
3 type of mental or physical abuse, *[one line redacted*
4 *pursuant to Rule 55]*.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** *[One line redacted*
6 *pursuant to Rule 55]*.

7 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** *[Three lines redacted*
8 *pursuant to Rule 55]*.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what do you see
10 contributes to that in the present day? Are there ---

11 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** *[Twenty-four lines*
12 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55]*.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So how are those most
14 recent generations coping?

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** *[Twenty-one lines*
16 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55]*.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What would you
18 describe as the gifts and strengths of Mary?

19 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** She was loud. So I'd
20 say she was persistent and she had no fear. I know she had
21 no fear. I could see it and I was sharing with our team.
22 I said, "My fondest memory of our sister I was about five
23 years old. We were out picking blackberries and we should
24 to take a plank with us about five feet, about eight inches
25 wide and throw it on the prickly bushes so we could walk in

1 and pick the berries."

2 We threw it in, my sister was walking in and
3 I was behind her, to follow her in to start picking the
4 blackberries. She lost her footing and fell in the prickly
5 bushes. I was only five or six and I just laughed. I was
6 laughing and she was mad and she was swearing, she was
7 cussing. And I got scared so I said, "I just ran home."

8 And my friends or my colleague is saying,
9 "You just left her there?"

10 I said, "Well, I was scared." That was my
11 fondest memory of her, right. And she came home. She
12 came, she was okay. She didn't get after me or be mad at
13 me; she just came home.

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

15 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** So I'd say she was
16 tough. I know she was tough. She had that tough attitude
17 so I know she had some strength, yeah, some inner strength.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What
19 recommendations would you make to our Commissioners to deal
20 with tragedies like Mary's and to prevent them in the
21 future?

22 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I think it would have
23 to be a whole -- not just the Inquiry, but I think working
24 together with all the resources that are available to work
25 together. And I know there's lots of things around,

1 awareness and campaigns. Those are good; I'm glad they're
2 out, whereas before it was never talked about, family
3 violence or anything like that.

4 I think if -- it's not an easy job, right,
5 and I know that. But I think if the Inquiry could work
6 with the government, the communities, the funding agencies
7 just to create or allow communities to access funding to
8 create programs for the communities that may be
9 experiencing any type of violence, whether it's domestic or
10 something like that.

11 And then maybe a treatment program for the
12 families that may have experienced murdered or missing,
13 like to have a specific treatment program for them, say
14 anywhere from two months to three months to give them a
15 place to go to heal.

16 These gatherings are nice; they're short and
17 it's kind of a Band-Aid. I think if we had actual -- a
18 program for the families to go to they could do more
19 healing as families, right? Because if they bring in a
20 program for families of Murdered and Missing Women and
21 Indigenous Girls they would be able to support each other.

22 Because they know, right? They know the
23 experience. Whereas somebody like an alcohol and drug
24 treatment program or a family treatment program, it
25 wouldn't be the same. So I think if there was a treatment

1 program that could be designed specifically for the
2 families, I think that would be amazing. Yeah.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So Stanley, just for
4 the benefit of our Commissioners would you explain on what
5 basis of your experience that you bring to the table in
6 making those recommendations, your line of work and ---

7 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Yes, definitely my
8 line of work because like, I've been in the counselling,
9 healing, helping field for 29 years. I have seen many
10 approaches to healing and approaches adapted to whatever
11 was needed. So I think my own personal experience is
12 seeing the families come together to do their own healing
13 in a safe environment would be so beneficial to them and
14 the biggest healing for our people whether they're Nuu Chah
15 Nulth or Cree or whatever nation we come from, I know the
16 biggest healing comes from culture.

17 So I think, you know, if some type of
18 culture was implemented into the treatment program like the
19 ceremony they were starting just before I left and came
20 over here. I know it was going to be a powerful ceremony
21 because I've seen it done numerous times.

22 So a program for healing for them. But how
23 do you design it? How do you design it, you know, and
24 three families at a time and some families are huge?

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

1 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** So I could see it be a
2 relief. It could be successful, yeah.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So as it stands today
4 are there sufficient resources for that recommendation to
5 be implemented, or do you see a need for more?

6 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** There's qualified
7 people to work, to be employed if there was a center like
8 that. There's definitely qualified First Nations people
9 that could administer the program and be the counsellors,
10 therapists of the programs and leaders of the programs.
11 Yeah, I know there's qualified people. We have a team of
12 29 on our team and all highly qualified, most of them, so I
13 know there's qualified people out there.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So for the benefit of
15 our Commissioners, could you describe your team?

16 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Our team is amazing
17 and that comes from our manager who administers our
18 program. Our team is a well-built unit that works together
19 and take this event for example, Missing and Murdered
20 Indigenous Women and Girls gathering here in Port Alberni.
21 Our whole team has come together and took responsibility
22 for certain things that needed to be done to get to this
23 day. So we all work really well together. We're a really
24 good unit.

25 Communication is key. That communication is

1 a big part of what we do and the biggest piece is health
2 care. We're given an opportunity three times a year to go
3 away as a team for two and a half days to take care of
4 ourselves. And that's been implemented into our mental
5 health program through our manager. So she ensures that we
6 take the time to take care of ourselves which really
7 benefits the 14 nations that we serve.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So when you say your
9 "team" or the "program" could you name it specifically?

10 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Okay, sorry. The Nuu
11 Chah Nulth Tribal Council Teechuktl Mental Health Program.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. As a
13 result of your testimony today, for you on a personal
14 level, what do you hope to see achieved by coming and
15 sharing your experience today?

16 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I'd say hope, like
17 hope for other families and hope for the Commissioners to
18 see that there needs to be a specific outcome that has to
19 be visioned. And my outcome would be for the families to
20 get to a place of where they know they can have closure or
21 they can know that, okay, this is going forward now.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Is there
23 anything else you would like to say today to the
24 commissioners?

25 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** I just want to say

1 thank you for the opportunity. I think a lot of my sister.
2 I pray and when I need guidance, she's not the only sister
3 I've lost. I've lost two other sisters, both my parents
4 and a brother. And when I pray, I pray to them. I always
5 say -- and I name them, Mary, Esther, Tony, Judy, Mom, Dad.
6 I name them in my prayers and I say, "Just guide me."

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Thank you very
8 much, Stanley.

9 **MR. STANLEY MATTHEW:** Thank you. Do you
10 guys get to have lunch?

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** We're going to.

12

13 --- Upon adjourning

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Karen Noganosh, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.



Karen Noganosh

October 2, 2017