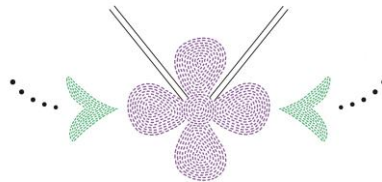


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Hotel Bonaventure
Montreal, Quebec**



PUBLIC

Thursday March 15, 2018

Statement - Volume 298

N. A.

Statement gathered by Jayme Menzies

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II
ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names in this transcript and any related documents be rendered anonymous. The order was made November 2nd, 2018.

III

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Statement Gatherer: Jayme Menzies Language: English	

Documents submitted during testimony: none.

1 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at
2 2:18 p.m.

3 **MS. [N. A.]**: What do I start with? My name
4 or what?

5 **MS. JAYME MENZIES**: I'll introduce myself,
6 and then I will ask you to introduce yourself, your name,
7 your community, and then we can start wherever you like.
8 Okay?

9 **MS. [N. A.]**: Okay.

10 **MS. JAYME MENZIES**: So first of all, my name
11 is Jayme. I'm from Manitoba. And just for the record,
12 it's March 15th, and it's 2:18.

13 So now you can introduce yourself.

14 **MS. [N. A.]**: Hello, I'm [N. A.] from
15 [Community1]. It's in Northern Quebec. It's on the coast.
16 Of 700 people.

17 My parents first moved there in 1972 before
18 people went to -- went there. So I've lived there since
19 1974, and I left [Community1] in 1985 for six years to be
20 in Nunavut Region, that's in [Town1].

21 **MS. JAYME MENZIES**: M'hm.

22 **MS. [N. A.]**: I got married in 1976, so
23 [date], and we had five children. We have five children,
24 which are adults now.

25 From the relationship I had with this

1 marriage was like -- it was 12 years. I went through
2 abusive and violent relationship that I could not -- I did
3 not think I would escape or get out of. At first, it was
4 like there was no way out. It mostly verbal and
5 psychological abuse.

6 I considered in the 12 years of marriage I
7 was in the -- I was thinking of committing suicide to get
8 out of it, and I thought it was the only way out. So I
9 tried several times trying to harm myself and trying to run
10 away to the land where I could never return. Nobody would
11 know.

12 And I've tried drowning in the river, and
13 the river -- the water would come up here and I would just
14 float away, which I couldn't, I don't know why. That was
15 when I thought I would finish my life because I got tired
16 of it.

17 One more thing, that I went for committing
18 suicide was I handled a rifle. I don't know, I don't
19 remember what kind of rifle it was. I put a bullet in it
20 and I was trying to shoot myself and the gun was just there
21 and I could just go, but I didn't. Those was -- several
22 times I tried. I don't know why, but they never worked --
23 it never worked.

24 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

25 **MS. [N. A.]:** I didn't have the strength.

1 through the land which he had, a big thick wood, we
2 returned home again and I thought he would finish me, but
3 he didn't. He never touched me physically, but slapped --
4 once slapped me on the leg, asking me why, why -- his
5 questions were why. And I had to come up with an answer.
6 He was really abusive because he was a jealous type.

7 He judged me from the past life I had and
8 who I went out with, and I had to answer him and he
9 wouldn't say why. And I came up with an answer and I told
10 him "Because I never thought you would question me like
11 this and I cannot go back and fix them. They are my
12 problem, not yours, so you don't even have to mention them,
13 you know." And he stopped.

14 After 12 years of violence and abuse
15 relationship, I ran away again. I saw the police. They
16 came. I was on my way somewhere to escape, and I saw them.
17 They were -- I saw someone driving a truck, and I said to
18 him to tell the police I'm here and I need them. So they
19 came. And the police took me somewhere safe and I -- they
20 told me, because they knew, if you ever go back again then
21 he'll kill you, and they can't come by, that's it.

22 So I went back home to [Community1] from
23 [Town1] in 1990, and I never returned. I said that's it.
24 My kids and I went there because we never wanted to go
25 back.

1 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** So you escaped with your
2 kids?

3 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yes. They came after me.

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Oh.

5 **MS. [N. A.]:** I escaped first and then I
6 think weeks after that they came back.

7 So I went on. I filed for divorce on my own
8 in 1994. But it came to my mind that we had no alimony or
9 child support, anything at all like that from the father.
10 He never helped us in any way. And I kept telling myself
11 where were when I needed them. Now they can have help like
12 that. To do -- up to this day, I never had help from him.
13 Otherwise, I never wanted anything to do with him anymore.

14 So I -- I thought I lost hope, but I can see
15 that there is hope. I have tried committing suicide but
16 they never worked because there was hope. I thought there
17 were no hope anymore.

18 From other things that he has done was that
19 he has raped my sister, who was taking care of my two kids
20 when I was away for our third child. She was babysitting
21 them. She was just a teenage girl.

22 And that was when I got really feared with
23 my mother. I was really scared. I was really angry. I
24 was really -- I wish my sister would not have gone through
25 this. It's like I wouldn't mind telling about it because

1 it's something that he had destroyed all of our lives up to
2 this date.

3 I've had difficulties living on my own with
4 my children, having to raise them and having to support
5 them with no other support, and I have worked, I have made
6 my way just trying to live. So I did up to this date.

7 I have grandchildren now, and we are just
8 doing fine, but in some ways, I have -- I never had any
9 support trying to raise my children. They are grownups
10 now, they became teenagers and then adults. Up to this day
11 I have difficulties trying to -- doing on my own.

12 So my daughter lives here in Montreal. So
13 she doesn't want to do anything with her father. She won't
14 say who is he, because he -- she is really angry at him.
15 So she's still saying that I would never want to see him, I
16 don't want to see him, I don't want to talk to him. It
17 goes for me too today.

18 So now I have nothing to do with the father,
19 and I -- I'm doing okay. But in some ways, I'm not doing
20 okay because I need -- I tried to be in a relationship but
21 it didn't work so there are some other ways that really are
22 not going the way I think they would. So that's it.

23 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Do you feel like you
24 have a hard time trusting men now? Is that part of the...?

25 **MS. [N. A.]:** No. Well, I did in the first

1 10 years I left the father. No.

2 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** What sort of -- you said
3 you had no support raising your kids when you were -- when
4 you went back to Quebec. What kind of supports would have
5 helped you? What did you need?

6 **MS. [N. A.]:** I tried looking for jobs. I
7 tried -- my family -- all I want to say, were -- kept with
8 the father.

9 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Oh.

10 **MS. [N. A.]:** Because I lived in Nunavut at
11 that time, and my mail went there and he had access to it,
12 the family allowances. And I had nothing. So my parents
13 supported us all the -- I think -- almost -- I think a
14 year.

15 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Were there any women's
16 organizations or anything like that in Quebec for you after
17 you left Nunavut? No?

18 **MS. [N. A.]:** No. No support from any other
19 women. They would just think that I make it wrong. Like
20 getting separated. They were really against that.

21 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Right.

22 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.

23 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Right. When you were
24 married and living in Nunavut, you were in [Town1] ---

25 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.

1 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** --- [Town1]? And you
2 went all the way to the Iqaluit women's shelter?

3 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** How far was that?

5 **MS. [N. A.]:** By airplane.

6 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** With your kids by
7 airplane?

8 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.

9 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Did you do that more
10 than once?

11 **MS. [N. A.]:** What's that?

12 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Did you do that more
13 than once or just one time?

14 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yeah, more than once.

15 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Was that the closest
16 women's shelter?

17 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.

18 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Oh.

19 **MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.

20 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** There wasn't anything
21 like that in [Town1]?

22 **MS. [N. A.]:** No.

23 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Do you know if there is
24 now?

25 **MS. [N. A.]:** I don't know.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

2 MS. [N. A.]: Probably there is, I think.

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Do any of your kids have
4 a relationship with their father?

5 MS. [N. A.]: Yes, they do.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah. Just not your one
7 daughter?

8 MS. [N. A.]: Not the youngest one, no.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

10 MS. [N. A.]: There are other ways that --
11 other things that my daughters went through. They went
12 through child sexual abuse before -- after we left the
13 father. I mean, one of them have. I don't think they want
14 me to talk about it. So ---

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

16 MS. [N. A.]: So I'll just leave it there.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. Is there any ---

18 MS. [N. A.]: There are other women who have
19 been talking to me before, though. They want to get out of
20 a relationship but they cannot. There are some women who
21 have talked to me about it. And I keep telling them that I
22 don't want to be blamed for what -- if they have been -- if
23 they went through separation or something like that ---

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

25 MS. [N. A.]: --- because I'm not an

1 example.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

3 MS. [N. A.]: I'm not an example.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right. Yeah. We don't
5 have to talk about this, but did your former husband, did
6 he go through anything in his life that do you think led
7 him to be abusive?

8 MS. [N. A.]: Yes. He told me before.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. So he had his own
10 trauma that he was dealing with?

11 MS. [N. A.]: Yes. And he took out on me --

12 -

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

14 MS. [N. A.]: --- all those years. I was
15 (inaudible) of how other children has their father with
16 them when my children don't. And I used to be blame the
17 abusers, he went through that. If he -- they didn't abuse
18 him they would have a father.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm. Yeah. Are there
20 any resources for the men in Nunavut or [Town1]?

21 MS. [N. A.]: I don't know about that. I
22 don't really know about that.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

24 MS. [N. A.]: Because they're in Nunavut,
25 and then in Nunavik.

1 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** So -- yeah, we don't
2 know if he has -- even if he wanted help, you don't know?

3 **MS. [N. A.]:** Maybe he has.

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Okay.

5 **MS. [N. A.]:** But I didn't want to do
6 anything with him anymore.

7 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

8 **MS. [N. A.]:** I also have an anger with me.
9 I have anger with me all those years since I was 18. I
10 remember all -- a family who did something wrong to me,
11 which I have had to go through in all those years too. I
12 can speak about it now, I don't mind that. I can speak
13 about it.

14 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Okay.

15 **MS. [N. A.]:** It made me angry all those
16 years because I didn't think a member of the family would
17 do that to me. I wanted to scratch his eyes out each time
18 I saw him, and each time I saw him just outside, even
19 though he was really far away, I would just get really
20 angry, you know.

21 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

22 **MS. [N. A.]:** I get a real tight, you know,
23 anger.

24 And I've learned how to forgive, so
25 forgiveness gave me more strength to not be really angry

1 about it anymore, but I wouldn't forget about it because
2 it's like it's ruined my life, you know. If I were to do
3 something about it today, he would be in prison.

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

5 **MS. [N. A.]:** If I knew how at that time,
6 but they say that even after a lot of years I could charge
7 the man and maybe he would be in prison now, but it's like
8 impossible for me to do that. I don't know.

9 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** I don't know what
10 happened, but there are a few things that you can charge
11 someone with forever. So the time never runs out.

12 **MS. [N. A.]:** No.

13 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** For example, if you --
14 if someone abuses someone sexually, you can still charge
15 that person 60 years later and the time is still okay.

16 **MS. [N. A.]:** I went to high school at the
17 age of 14 to another community. That was the first time I
18 went through sexual abuse, and it happened. And it ruined
19 my life, you know, it ruined my life for the first time.

20 And physically, I got really not kind of
21 normal because I think I was damaged where I had to have,
22 you know, I -- it took a lot of blood from me.

23 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

24 **MS. [N. A.]:** Each monthly cycles I went
25 through in those years and I lost blood. I was anemic.

1 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Okay.

2 **MS. [N. A.]:** I got anemic. My cervix got
3 kind of not really normal, because after that they had to
4 do some surgery in 2003, and I think it was related to
5 that, because -- I'm sure it was related to that.

6 There are so many other angry moments that
7 I've had before that I'm not telling because I don't think
8 I can.

9 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Okay.

10 **MS. [N. A.]:** I know a lot of women are
11 going through that, and each time I hear something that
12 they're -- I'm not the only one.

13 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

14 **MS. [N. A.]:** And I am not ashamed to tell
15 about it anymore because they're the ones who should be
16 ashamed ---

17 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yes.

18 **MS. [N. A.]:** --- of themselves, not me.
19 Not them -- not women. I consider they should be ashamed
20 of themselves because they did something wrong and ruined
21 our lives.

22 Anger is always there, but I have to deal
23 with it sometimes when -- I get really angry sometimes. I
24 did really get angry, but I try not to do that anymore
25 because it's useless.

1 So if ever something like that would happen
2 to my daughter I would have killed them.

3 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

4 **MS. [N. A.]:** I would have killed the man
5 that did it to her, but it was not possible. She was
6 talking to me about it and I believed her.

7 I wish I was there when it happened because
8 I could have prevented it, but it's like being helpless. I
9 think that's it.

10 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yeah. Do you mind if I
11 just ask a question? Did this man work at the school that
12 you were attending when you were a teenager?

13 **MS. [N. A.]:** No, he was not a attendee, he
14 was a resident of where I went.

15 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** So he was also a
16 student?

17 **MS. [N. A.]:** No, he was not also a student.
18 He lived in the village.

19 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Oh, okay. Yeah, he was
20 an adult.

21 **MS. [N. A.]:** We used to go out to a
22 community hall for the evenings ---

23 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Right.

24 **MS. [N. A.]:** --- and during the weekend,
25 along with the young people.

1 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yeah, okay.

2 **MS. [N. A.]:** He took me to his house and
3 that's when it happened. And I thought he wouldn't do it
4 because he was intoxicated at the time.

5 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Have you ever spoken to
6 a therapist or an Elder or anything about these things?

7 **MS. [N. A.]:** No. I never spoke to an
8 Elder. I went to a healing session here in Montreal just
9 the past years for residential school students ---

10 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Okay.

11 **MS. [N. A.]:** --- a gathering.

12 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Okay. Was that
13 something that you would like is to have someone to talk to
14 about this specific story?

15 **MS. [N. A.]:** No.

16 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** No?

17 **MS. [N. A.]:** No.

18 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** You'd rather not talk
19 about it and not bring it up?

20 **MS. [N. A.]:** I'm not no more -- I'm not
21 ashamed anymore to talk about it. I won't even mind
22 telling the whole world about it, because it was not my
23 fault.

24 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Because it wasn't your
25 fault.

1 MS. [N. A.]: No. It was their fault.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

3 MS. [N. A.]: Let them be ashamed.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

5 MS. [N. A.]: I've been ashamed all -- it
6 seems like all my life and I don't want to be ashamed.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

8 MS. [N. A.]: I could just point him in the
9 face and say I'm ashamed of you, you know.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

11 MS. [N. A.]: Yeah. I could just say that
12 to them if I go. I try to avoid that. It's just in my
13 mind if I have the courage to do that.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

15 MS. [N. A.]: If I'm in front of him I would
16 just do that, but it doesn't happen.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

18 MS. [N. A.]: So I'll encourage other women
19 to be not ashamed of themselves.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm. How are you doing
21 now? How are you doing these days?

22 MS. [N. A.]: These days, I'm doing just
23 fine.

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

25 MS. [N. A.]: Yeah. I'm just doing fine. I

1 can say I'm just doing fine.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

3 MS. [N. A.]: Yeah.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Do you have the support
5 you need if you need it?

6 MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: You do?

8 MS. [N. A.]: Yes, I do.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

10 MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Good. Is there anything
12 else you wanted to share with -- even -- so the
13 commissioners will watch this, so even if it's anything --
14 even if you have any recommendations for them or any direct
15 message to the Inquiry, the Commissioner?

16 MS. [N. A.]: The -- yes. For the young
17 Inuit or non-Inuit who live in Montreal and for anywhere up
18 North, I want them to be aware of how -- what surroundings
19 they are in, because there are murdered girls, women who
20 are being raped and who are going through molestation,
21 especially for the small girls. I want their parents,
22 their mothers to teach them, to let them know to be aware
23 of what surroundings they are in.

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

25 MS. [N. A.]: And it's like I'm wanting them

1 to know to be aware of -- not to be in a situation where
2 they could be in a sexual abuse. I want them to be safe.

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Thank you.

4 MS. [N. A.]: Yes, thank you.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm. Is that all?

6 MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: You're good?

8 MS. [N. A.]: For now, yes.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: For now?

10 MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. I'll turn this
12 off for now.

13 --- Upon adjourning at 2:50 p.m.

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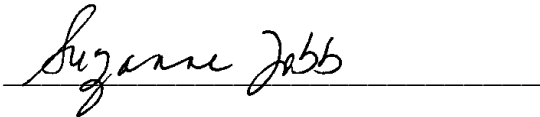
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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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I, Suzanne Jobb, transcriptionist, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Jobb", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Suzanne Jobb

May 8, 2018