

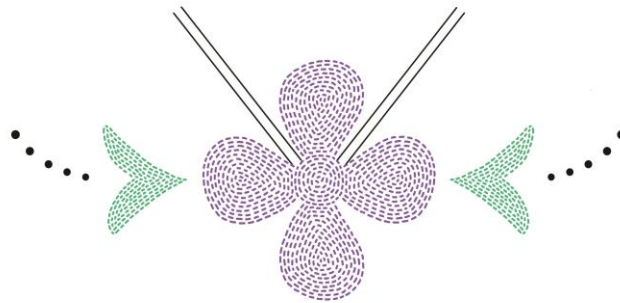
National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Prince George Conference and Civic Centre**

Prince George, British Columbia



PUBLIC

Wednesday February 7, 2018

Statement - Volume 233

David Tom, In relation to Jane Tom

Statement gathered by Caitlin Hendrickson

Coast Reporting Services Inc.

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Documents submitted with testimony:

1. Photocopy of death certificate.

Statement - Public
David Tom
(Jane Tom)

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1 [FEBRUARY 7, 2018, 9:20 A.M.]

2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: This is Caitlin Hendrickson, statement
3 taker with the National Inquiry Into Missing and
4 Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It is 9:20
5 a.m. on February 7th, 2018. We're here in Prince
6 George at the Civic Centre, and I'm sitting here
7 with David Tom, and he's here to speak today about
8 his sister, Jane Tom. Also in the room we have
9 Denise McKinley, mental health support with Carrier
10 Sekani.

11 You've agreed today that we would be
12 videotaping it today and audio recording it. Can
13 you please state that you're okay with that.

14 DAVID TOM: Yeah.

15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Thanks. And we had a discussion about
16 what you're going to be sharing with the
17 commissioners today, and we'll hold your statement
18 as a public statement. And so with that, I am
19 going to let you start wherever you would like to
20 start.

21 DAVID TOM: Well, today is February 7th, 2018. My sister
22 passed away way back 1994. They found her in
23 our -- my cousin's bedroom. She was naked and she
24 was laying on the floor. I would like to find out
25 what happened to her, and I didn't have any cop's

Statement - Public
David Tom
(Jane Tom)

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1 report or coroner's report when it happened. It
2 was way back in 1994. In those years, my mom was
3 alive, and mom wanted to do something, but mom
4 passed away, too. She died 1997.

5 And it is hard. I lost all my family. My
6 brothers and my sisters, my mom and dad. I'm just
7 by myself. And I have one sister left. She's in
8 Burns. She's getting old, too. And I have my
9 nephews and my niece. My sister had two kids, [Jane's
10 Daughter] and [Jane's Son]. That's Jane's kids.

11 And it is tough for me to see what -- how
12 she died, and I didn't get any report from the cops
13 or anybody those days. And I went to a coroner's
14 office down here in Prince George. They were
15 working on it. And they supposed to phone me back
16 if they have anything updated so I could come down,
17 see what happened to my sister.

18 I been thinking about these stuff. Nobody
19 couldn't help me. I asked my leaders, my chief and
20 counsellor to help me on this. They didn't want
21 to. They didn't want to step in their system,
22 family problems, they didn't want to help. They --
23 I been talking with my buddies, good thing my buddy
24 [Friend 1] told me to phone Penny about this issues and
25 stuff like this.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

2 DAVID TOM: I seen these people on APTN News. They were down
3 in Ottawa. Wouldn't mind be there with them, think
4 about my sister. It's been so long, too many years
5 I've been thinking about it, but I've been seeing
6 the counsellor left and right. Good to lay it out.
7 And stuff really bothers me sometimes. Always
8 saying this to myself, wish my family were still
9 here with me. They would have dealt with it long
10 ago.

11 But it is hard for me. I'm by myself.
12 Nobody couldn't help me, and nobody does want to
13 get behind me and stuff like that. I have a
14 counsellor at Burns, he's my cousin, but he
15 couldn't be close to me because it's confidential
16 stuff we're going to talk about it, so I told him
17 I'll just do it on my own.

18 It is tough for me, like. Somebody has
19 got to pay the price what they did to my sister
20 way back 1994 when they found her at [house address].
21 And I wanted to find out what happened, and that's
22 why I'm here and see if you guys can help
23 me.

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

25 DAVID TOM: It's been so long I've been watching these people,

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 they lose their loved ones, their daughters,
2 especially the parents, brothers and sisters,
3 grandparents, grandfather, uncle, and aunts. I
4 don't have uncle and aunts. They're all passed
5 away. And it is tough.

6 Like I want to let my nephews and my niece
7 to know because I want them to help me, but they
8 don't want to be involved, so I'm doing this for
9 my -- two kids of Janie's, [Jane's Daughter] and [Jane's
10 Son]. I wanted them to be here, but I didn't let them
11 know because it was too late to talk to him because my
12 nephew [Jane's Son] is a drug addict and alcoholic, and
13 her (sic) sister, [Jane's Daughter], lives down here. She
14 doesn't drink or anything. She's a handicap.

15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

16 DAVID TOM: And I didn't tell them I was going to do this, but
17 I'll talk to them slowly when I go home and then
18 I'll come back here and probably Friday deal with [Jane's
19 Daughter], because [Jane's Daughter], she always miss her
20 mom. She wanted to see her, but she didn't have a chance
21 to see her mom. She was apprehended when she was
22 small.

23 It is, you know -- nobody can help me, but
24 I'm -- I want to do something about my sister's
25 case. It's been so long. Even though it's going

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 to be 30 years, something like that, or 100 years
2 from now, I can still deal with these issues, but
3 myself, I'm 57 years old, and I want to do this for
4 [Jane's Son] and [Jane's Daughter]. Because I'm the
5 Only uncle they have.

6 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

7 DAVID TOM: And it's been so many years, so many years passed,
8 and leaders, see if they can help you. No, they're
9 not involved with these kind of stuff they were
10 saying. I can tell you one thing about our
11 leaders, other bands, sure, they can help their
12 members, but me, nobody wouldn't help me.

13 Even I asked the chief and the band
14 manager, the counsellor to help me. They didn't
15 want to.

16 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

17 DAVID TOM: So I'm going to do this on my own. I get support
18 from my buddy Ron Blend and [Friend 1], they can help me.
19 If I get another counsellor to deal with these
20 stuff, they can help me.

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So why do you think your band isn't
22 supporting you?

23 DAVID TOM: They don't want to be involved.

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Why is that?

25 DAVID TOM: I don't know why because sure it was if their own

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 family get beat up or get killed, sure, and
2 everybody is going to put their nose in there. I
3 been asking them so many times. Way back when it
4 happened, my cousin Betty was a chief, Betty
5 Patrick, and before was Emma Palmantier, she was
6 our chief, too, now Wilf Adam is our chief.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can you ask Wilf Adam for help?

8 DAVID TOM: Pardon?

9 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You've asked Wilf Adam for help?

10 DAVID TOM: Yeah, they don't want to help. Even though I ask
11 the leader so many times in the meeting, they don't
12 want to be involved. Even we have AJA, I brought
13 these stuff, and they say they're not allowed
14 helping our people. What are they there for?
15 We're the one who voted them in. And they should
16 help our members, right?

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

18 DAVID TOM: Because they can't say no. Because I seen this
19 APTN News, every other area, like Saskatchewan,
20 Saskatoon, sure, their leaders, they help them.

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

22 DAVID TOM: So many loved ones they lost, what about our band?
23 Why can't they do that, help our members, but the
24 chief and counsellors, they don't want to help.
25 They just do their own policy and all that stuff.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 They say have to do the policy first.

2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm?

3 DAVID TOM: I've been dealing with the R.C.M.P., too, in Burns
4 Lake, nothing come up, so I went down here,
5 coroner's office, they're working on my sister
6 report, if something comes up, they'll give me a
7 call, I have to come back down here and look at it.
8 And then maybe I bring it to you guys. You have an
9 office here in town, right?

10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Not here, no. In Vancouver.

11 DAVID TOM: Oh, in Vancouver. I wouldn't mind maybe before I
12 leave, maybe you can give me your fax number and
13 stuff like that, and I'll fax it down.

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I can give you my e-mail address. It can
15 be scanned and e-mailed to me.

16 DAVID TOM: Yeah, I've been asking them so long.

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

18 DAVID TOM: These leaders, they don't want to help. My buddy
19 told me you should phone Penny, so I did that,
20 because I want to deal with it, and I need help.
21 Maybe I -- I was talking to Brenda Wilson out
22 there. They said they can easily help me.

23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

24 DAVID TOM: And I'll be happy if they do help me.

25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes, FILU is really good for you to be

Statement - Public
David Tom
(Jane Tom)

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1 getting connected to because they can help you
2 probably a little bit quicker than we can. We can
3 look into requesting these reports. I just don't
4 know when we would be able to get them because
5 we've got thousands of reports to request.

6 DAVID TOM: I know. I seen that on the news.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

8 DAVID TOM: It's going to take a while to deal with these
9 issues.

10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

11 DAVID TOM: It's going to take time. But my sister died way
12 back '94. It's been so long, and I've been
13 thinking and worrying how can I do this, but good
14 thing a friend of mine told me see Penny, so I
15 phoned her up. They might help me. Because I
16 never seen any coroner's report or anything.

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. No, it's good you came today.

18 DAVID TOM: It is really bothers me. How would you feel when
19 your sister get killed or whatever and naked,
20 laying on the floor? How would you feel? It's
21 hard.

22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Absolutely.

23 DAVID TOM: M-hm. I've been thinking about it every time, but
24 I couldn't do anything. If I do something, it will
25 be a different story. I am hereditary chief for

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 Lake Babine. I speak for my caribou clan.

2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

3 DAVID TOM: I have a name. I don't want to be rude to

4 my members.

5 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

6 DAVID TOM: That's all. I can't say anything to nobody. If I

7 say something, then the whole family will probably

8 jump me, that's why I don't say anything. If I say

9 one thing to another family, everybody is going to

10 put their nose in. Yap, yap, yap. That's how it

11 is back home. So I don't say anything to nobody.

12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

13 DAVID TOM: I keep things to myself.

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

15 DAVID TOM: If I tell my nephews and my niece, they will get

16 together, and I don't want them to be enemies with

17 my own members.

18 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

19 DAVID TOM: Always keeps things to myself.

20 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

21 DAVID TOM: I don't tell anybody. I don't talk about anybody,

22 and I don't tell anybody about it. You know, I

23 just -- that's myself, when people say something to

24 me, I just walk away. I just let them talk. I

25 don't say anything back to them. If I say

1 something back to them, it's going to get worse, so
2 I know the tools on my own.

3 Because I went to treatment, Round Lake,
4 way back in '97, when my mom passed away, I went to
5 Round Lake for six weeks program to deal with all
6 my anger and my grief.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

8 DAVID TOM: I know I met Joe Michelle and -- you know Michelle
9 way back from the Elders on Salmon Arm?

10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

11 DAVID TOM: I met with them. They talked to me one on one. It
12 was nice. Now -- back home us we don't have enough
13 Elders. All our Elders are all gone. Maybe a few,
14 maybe half a dozen left.

15 It's best to listen to the Elders, but we
16 don't have Elders anymore in our clan. There's
17 just about two or three in our clan. Each other
18 clans have same thing, they have maybe four or six
19 Elders.

20 That's our four clan, frog, beaver, bear,
21 caribou, in our territory, and we have to work as a
22 nation. When we lose a loved one, everybody works
23 together.

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

25 DAVID TOM: That's how it is. And it is tough for me, but I

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 wish I can get help. I wish my leaders could have
2 dealt with this way back in '94, then I wouldn't be
3 sitting here talking about my sister, but it
4 bothers me so much, I have to do it, and I want to
5 see how she died. I want to find out her report,
6 the coroner's report, and I need to deal with it
7 one way or the other because it is tough. It
8 bothers me so much.

9 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

10 DAVID TOM: And I couldn't let go. If I let go, it'll make me
11 really more angry and stuff like this, so that's
12 why I always see a counsellor, talk to them about,
13 but now there's a new counsellor working for the
14 band. She went for training in Vancouver. I'll
15 probably see her next week, on Tuesday. I always
16 talk to her. She's a nice woman.

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

18 DAVID TOM: And she helps me, too. She doesn't know all the
19 members in our community, but she's a pretty good
20 woman. She's just like her, and she's good to talk
21 to. I can talk with any other counsellor except
22 for her and Ron Blend and [Friend 1].

23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

24 DAVID TOM: They're my buddies. But that counsellor is a new
25 one, I'd like to deal with her more. Like stuff

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 bothers me, I always give her a call, and we'll go
2 for a coffee and talk it over and let it out, walk
3 it off and shake it off, that's how I feel better.

4 But my sister's case, I want to find out
5 really -- I want to see the coroner's report and
6 stuff like that. I'm doing this for my nephew and
7 my niece because they miss their mom.

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

9 DAVID TOM: My nephew is an alcoholic and he's drug addict, but
10 he'll be okay if he sees a counsellor. I talk to
11 him once in a while. I don't see him in Burns very
12 often, but he's in Burns, but he put himself into
13 trouble all the time.

14 But I need to do this, like I want you
15 guys' support. I've been asking my leaders, see if
16 they can help me. Nobody could do it so they're
17 not in their policy for these stuff. Look, what's
18 going to happen if our community, so many loved
19 ones we lost in our community, nobody even stepped
20 in, they just leave it up to the family.

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

22 DAVID TOM: My cousin got killed on the road. He got slashed
23 way back, and we have to wait for these coroner
24 till 12 hours later; he was on roadside for 12
25 hours. These coroners were coming from Vancouver,

1 Prince George, Terrace, we have to wait for these
2 kind of stuff when it's happening in our community.

3 Same thing what happened to my brother in
4 2006. He got killed at the mall. And I've been
5 dealing with his case still. And I asked the
6 leaders, see if they can help me. They don't want
7 to help me. That's what they're there for, right?

8 I don't have any support. Not one of them
9 ever say did you do something, did you want help,
10 anybody ever say that to me, and it's tough, like
11 in our community. Especially when you start losing
12 loved ones, every member show up for our loved ones
13 when they're gone.

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

15 DAVID TOM: That's not right. They say love one another. How
16 we're going to love one another? Back home, it's
17 pretty tough to live. It is hard when you lose a
18 loved one. I lost grandpa not too long ago, three
19 weeks ago. We just buried him in Babine. He was
20 98 years old. His birthday coming up this month,
21 he would have been 99.

22 And I say just have to pray for him when we
23 lose our loved ones. That's what I've been doing
24 to our family. Always go to their grave and pray
25 for them, talk to him. All my family are all gone.

1 Just one sister left. And it is tough, when you
2 see your family get killed, it's hard.

3 Same thing happened to my brother at the
4 mall, and these guys, they're still out in the
5 street. I need help. Who is going to help me?
6 I'm just by myself. I have cousins, but they don't
7 want to be involved. I got no aunties, no uncle,
8 they're all gone. If I had my aunties around, they
9 would have helped me. My aunties are real close to
10 me, but them, too, they're all gone, they're all
11 passed away.

12 Like -- hope somebody can help me deal with
13 my sister's case. I'll be happy. It is tough
14 trying to do something for like myself, but I
15 should leave it in God's hands. I can't leave it
16 in God's hands. What we're going to do if we leave
17 it in God's hands, all we have to do is just pray
18 for them, pray for her? It's not the answer.
19 Somebody has got to pay the price what they did to
20 her and how she died. I want to find out. It's
21 been too long. And it is tough. It happened in
22 our community.

23 You go other nations, same thing, same
24 thing happened in other nation, nobody can deal
25 with these problems, right? They lose their loved

Statement - Public
David Tom
(Jane Tom)

15

1 one in that community, it's hard to deal with it.
2 And it takes time to deal with it. That's how it
3 is. It is tough.

4 I seen this so many times when they lose a
5 loved one. You know, I always talk to the family
6 if they lose a loved one. I always speak to them,
7 give them good words, talk to them, tell them just
8 pray for them. Crying is not going to solve the
9 problem. Crying is just making themselves more hurt.
10 All they're going to do is just pray for their
11 loved ones.

12 That's what I learned from this treatment
13 Round Lake with the two Elders. They walk with me,
14 they talk with me, like when -- a room like this,
15 one-on-one, take turns. In our community, nobody
16 doesn't do that. It's tough.

17 But we have to deal with the counsellor,
18 talk to them, but now we have good leader,
19 counsellor to talk to, lady counsellor, she's just
20 like her, she's a good woman, and she's out
21 training. When she comes back, I'll probably talk
22 to her more about my sister.

23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

24 DAVID TOM: It is tough. You know. I wish the chief and
25 counsellor, they could help, but not one of them

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 ever step in to my -- step in community or we're
2 going to help you do this. It's not right. You go
3 see the other nation, they help their families,
4 right? That's how it is. But our band, they don't
5 do that. We're the biggest band, Lake Babine
6 Nation, and the chief and counsellor, they don't
7 want to help the members. Like cases like this,
8 they have to help.

9 I was watching APTN News again here coming
10 in. The leaders they help their members out in
11 Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Regina, chief and
12 counsellor and all the Elders and members, they get
13 together and meet with them. I was watching that
14 news. So many loved ones they lost in those area,
15 especially the women. Like, it's hard. That's how
16 it is.

17 Like my sister, that's how I miss her. It
18 is tough, but -- sometimes I want to do something,
19 but I leave it, just let it by, I walk it off and
20 shake it off. That's when I go see a counsellor.
21 It's better to see a counsellor.

22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

23 DAVID TOM: Yeah. That's all I can tell you.

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. Do you know when in 1994 she was
25 killed?

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 DAVID TOM: January 13th.

2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. Do you know if anybody was
3 arrested at that time?

4 DAVID TOM: Nope, nobody, but there was my cousin [Cousin 1]
5 My niece passed away. Her name was [Niece 1],
6 she was there, and the other lady was
7 [M.A].

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Sorry, that was [Niece 1] --

9 DAVID TOM: Pardon?

10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: What was her name, [Niece 1] --

11 DAVID TOM: [Niece 1].

12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [Niece 1]. And she's passed away as well?

13 DAVID TOM: Yeah, she died. In 2006.

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And have you ever been in contact with
15 the police, have they ever given you like a police
16 investigation number?

17 DAVID TOM: No. But I got a number from the coroner's office
18 last month, I went there, and I wanted to see if my
19 sister's coroner's report, they're working on it,
20 but they never get back to me yet.

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

22 DAVID TOM: Say it's been closed so long, and I asked them --
23 but -- I just want to see how she died and what
24 kind of report I can look at it.

25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 DAVID TOM: They're working on it, and they couldn't -- you
2 know, down south in the main office in Vancouver,
3 they can't release anything when it's over date,
4 like over pass and stuff like that. That's what
5 the lady told me in that office, but she's going to
6 try. And she'll phone me. I gave her my number,
7 too.

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can you tell me about growing up with
9 your sister and what your relationship was like
10 with her?

11 DAVID TOM: She was my sister and me and her always do stuff
12 with my mom when she was alive. All my sisters
13 always work with my mom doing moose hide and stuff
14 like that. My mom used to do a lot of stuff for --
15 for -- for the band, like selling crafts and stuff
16 like that. She was a beautiful woman. She was
17 always there for us, like for our family.

18 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

19 DAVID TOM: That's all I can tell you. She likes doing moose
20 hide with mom, and fish and moose,
21 everything.

22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

23 DAVID TOM: That's how she was. She likes helping everybody.
24 She likes looking after the Elders, too.

25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 DAVID TOM: Doing stuff. That's how she was.

2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

3 DAVID TOM: But they say alcoholic was involved, like drinking
4 business when it happened.

5 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

6 DAVID TOM: And I want to find out the truth, what happened. I
7 didn't hear anything, like -- mom told me she was
8 naked there, and then what happened -- pretty sad,
9 but mom, she was gone, too. Bothered me so much,
10 that's when I went to treatment down Round Lake.
11 Deal with all my grief and all that stuff.

12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

13 DAVID TOM: It is tough. Now wonder, like here I go again, how
14 it -- they feel that -- their family get killed
15 real bad, right in town, and they can't deal with
16 the problem. That's how I did. Nobody can help
17 me. I can't deal with the problems. They couldn't
18 help me. That's how it is back there.

19 Since my brother, too, got killed, we had
20 candlelights outside the mall, just once. That
21 time Evelyn George was our counsellor for Lake
22 Babine Nation. She's the only one who cared. The
23 rest of them didn't care.

24 That's what we did, we had a candlelight
25 for my family. I wish somebody like her could help

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 me, would be nice, but I don't know, the leaders,
2 they want to be involved.

3 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. What was it like in your home
4 growing up? So you had your mom there. Was your
5 dad there?

6 DAVID TOM: My mom and dad, they're -- okay, well, we all
7 stayed in one house.

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

9 DAVID TOM: My sisters, all had different rooms -- well, one,
10 two, three -- three bedrooms. Mom and dad stayed
11 in their own bedrooms, me and my brothers stayed in
12 our own room, my sisters they got their own room,
13 too.

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

15 DAVID TOM: But we worked together as a -- doing stuff.

16 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

17 DAVID TOM: My dad was a trapper, hunting. My mom was doing
18 craft stuff for our members, like for the band,
19 selling moccasins, gloves, vests, and moose hide.

20 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

21 DAVID TOM: All my sisters were helping her doing moose hide,
22 too.

23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

24 DAVID TOM: That's how they learned. My other sister passed
25 away not too long ago, two years ago. She died of

Statement - Public
David Tom
(Jane Tom)

21

1 cancer. Her name was Cecilia Brown. Pretty tough,
2 but I'm still talking to the counsellor about my
3 stuff.

4 And I have one sister left. Her name is
5 Frances Lonny. She's still in Burns Lake, too. I
6 didn't tell her about this, but I'll tell her when
7 I get home. To do with this, it bothers me, you
8 know. She knows, but she didn't know I was coming
9 down, but she knows I'm going to deal with it. I
10 told them once, I'm not going to give up. Somebody
11 has got to pay the price for what they did to my
12 sister.

13 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

14 DAVID TOM: It is hard.

15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It is, yes.

16 DAVID TOM: My sister lives on her own. She has her own kids
17 looking after her. And it is tough, but I'm
18 staying with my nephew and my niece back home.

19 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

20 DAVID TOM: And they look after me, and I look after them.
21 That's how it is. That's all I can say because I
22 need to find -- see if you guys can help me. God,
23 I need somebody like -- the truth what happened.

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

25 DAVID TOM: I never seen any reports or anything. That's why I

Statement - Public
David Tom
(Jane Tom)

22

1 came down, to deal with the coroner's report.

2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So one thing that you mentioned was that

3 [Jane's Daughter] didn't grow up with her mom.

4 DAVID TOM: My sister was alcoholic that time, drinking.

5 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

6 DAVID TOM: He was staying with his own cousin, [Cousin 1].

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

8 DAVID TOM: That's their daughter, [Cousin 1]'s daughter.

9 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So who did she grow up with?

10 DAVID TOM: She stayed with those Mennonites. Her name was

11 [A.M.].

12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So she was in foster care?

13 DAVID TOM: She's her mother. [A.M.] was the mother.

14 She raised [Jane's Daughter].

15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

16 DAVID TOM: When she was old enough, she let her go. Now she's

17 on her own. She lives in Prince here.

18 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. You said that she's got some

19 disabilities?

20 DAVID TOM: She's a handicap.

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yeah. What does that mean?

22 DAVID TOM: Well, she's crippled a little bit.

23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is she in a wheelchair?

24 DAVID TOM: No, she can walk.

25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 DAVID TOM: She has her own kids, but she lives somewhere up
2 here in Prince George, behind the mall, she was
3 saying, somewhere in an apartment.

4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

5 DAVID TOM: Maybe I'll probably have time, me and my buddy
6 probably go see her.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And [Jane's Son], did he grow up with your
8 sister?

9 DAVID TOM: Mom grew -- my mom and dad.

10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So he lived with his grandparents?

11 DAVID TOM: And their mom, too.

12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So you say that at a point in her life,
13 she was struggling with alcohol?

14 DAVID TOM: Who is that?

15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Your sister.

16 DAVID TOM: Just once in a while.

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

18 DAVID TOM: She doesn't drink that often, but when she end up
19 with that guy, cousin, that's when she started
20 drinking, alcoholic, and when they drink, [Cousin 1]
21 always beat up my sister.

22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

23 DAVID TOM: That's what happened.

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And he's your cousin?

25 DAVID TOM: Yep.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is that the same house that she was found
2 in?

3 DAVID TOM: Yes. When they drink, he always beat her up. She
4 gives her broken nose and black eye. One time I
5 seen her in the hospital. I told her, Jane, that's
6 enough, you shouldn't be with him if he wants to
7 treat you like that.

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

9 DAVID TOM: And I told her you better charge him. Because
10 womens are more important. They have soft body.
11 What if you didn't make it? It's going to be too
12 late. But they had condition, they're not supposed
13 to see each other, but they still sneak around.

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

15 DAVID TOM: That's when my sister, I don't know what happened,
16 they found her in the bedroom, naked.

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

18 DAVID TOM: That's what mom told me, too, so I'm going to deal
19 with it one way or the other. But I wish somebody
20 could help me deal with it.

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

22 DAVID TOM: It is hard. You know. It is tough when you lose a
23 loved one. Really tough.

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

25 DAVID TOM: I seen my grandpa right in front of me, sleep

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 beside his bed. He passed away slowly. It's okay
2 when they die in bed, right. It's different story
3 when you find them out in the house in the middle
4 of nowhere, it's pretty sad, right?

5 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

6 DAVID TOM: Or out in the bush somewhere. It is tough. That's
7 how I felt. But I talk about it and I go and I
8 feel better.

9 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

10 DAVID TOM: When they die in bed, it's okay. When they find
11 them, it's no good story. It's hard.

12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

13 DAVID TOM: Hard to make a turn. You can't make a turn, left
14 or right, and you can't turn back. You just have
15 to look straight forward every day about these
16 stuff. That's how I learn on my own. When the
17 treatments that the Elders talk to me about this
18 stuff, that's how I'll be strong.

19 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

20 DAVID TOM: (unintelligible) I stayed strong, I didn't have to
21 cry, just have to pray for them.

22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

23 DAVID TOM: That's what they told me, so don't cry, you're the
24 one going to look after my kids, sure enough, it's
25 going to happen. You know, he has three kids, and

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 some grandchildren he has. It is tough.

2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is [Cousin 1] still alive?

3 DAVID TOM: Yeah.

4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yeah? Does he still live in Burns Lake?

5 DAVID TOM: Live in the same --

6 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Lives in the same house?

7 DAVID TOM: Yep.

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: But he was never arrested for anything

9 that happened there?

10 DAVID TOM: Not I know. Mom never told me about that.

11 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you see him?

12 DAVID TOM: Once in a while. Don't talk to him.

13 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

14 DAVID TOM: Might get more angry if I -- you know.

15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

16 DAVID TOM: But we're all in the same reserve, but I don't

17 bother them. They don't bother me. It's good.

18 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Now, given what you've shared so far, and

19 you had said that if you were to talk to people in

20 your community, you would find that they would

21 probably retaliate against you. If people found

22 out that this was a public record, would there be

23 any concern of -- for your safety then?

24 DAVID TOM: Nope, I'll be okay. Because I told them I'm not

25 going to give up.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

2 DAVID TOM: I say that in potlatch, I talk for my people, I'm
3 not going to give up what happened to my family.

4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

5 DAVID TOM: I'm going to come forward one day, sure enough, I'm
6 coming forward. That's what I mean, nobody can
7 help me.

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

9 DAVID TOM: I'm doing this for myself, for my family. But
10 they're gone. I'm just doing it for my nephews and
11 my niece.

12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

13 DAVID TOM: They care about me so I want to do something about
14 it. And I'm the only uncle they have.

15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. And I want to acknowledge your
16 strength and resilience in being here and doing
17 that for them, because it's not easy, and you said
18 that you went to Round Lake. That's really great
19 that you acknowledge that you needed that kind of
20 help and support and that you go to counselling and
21 you know when you need to do that. I think that's
22 really great.

23 DAVID TOM: I've been seeing a counsellor every week, but my
24 counsellor won't be back till next week, but
25 there's another white guy named Ron Blend.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

2 DAVID TOM: He's a counsellor. He used to work for the band.

3 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

4 DAVID TOM: I talk with him.

5 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: That's good.

6 DAVID TOM: And same thing with [Friend 1]. [Friend 1], he's my buddy.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

8 DAVID TOM: We share our talk. We don't talk about it in

9 public. We just keep it to ourself, just go for a

10 coffee somewhere.

11 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

12 DAVID TOM: Talk about it and let it out, go for a drive.

13 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. So one thing that I would like to

14 ask is do you have any recommendations for the

15 commissioners as to what you would like to see

16 change in your community and in Canada?

17 DAVID TOM: Well, something needs to be changed for our

18 community. Drug and alcohol counsellor, they got

19 to do their job in our community.

20 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

21 DAVID TOM: The chief and counsellor, they have to talk to our

22 members properly. That's what I think needs to be

23 done, and there should be a police officer maybe

24 walk around our community. A lot of stuff

25 happening in our community, like drugs, alcohol. I

Statement - Public
David Tom
(Jane Tom)

29

1 see some kids doing that so -- nobody can't deal
2 with it, then later they should deal with it.
3 These drug and alcohol counsellors, chief and
4 counsellor, they should be the one doing stuff for
5 our members, change.

6 When they go out meeting, they do stuff on
7 their own, they never tell us what's happening in
8 our community. That's why a lot of stuff happening
9 in our community. But I say that in potlatch, how
10 we're going to change, you say you guys going to
11 love one another, nobody love one another in that
12 community. Too much hatreds in that area. But our
13 leaders have to start pulling up their socks --

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

15 DAVID TOM: -- for our members. And they have to be there for
16 our people. We're the one who nominate them in our
17 community. They're the ones supposed to make a
18 change. The Elders, we had Elders, we had a church
19 chief in our community, three of them. They're all
20 gone.

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

22 DAVID TOM: Our church chief, when there's something happening,
23 we have meeting with the whole members. They bring
24 them up to the hall and they talk to the members.
25 Quit doing this, quit doing that. That's when they

1 quit doing this and doing that. I tell you one
2 thing, when there's death happening, people play
3 music driving around full blast, they don't care.
4 That's how it is back home. And if I have church
5 chief, sure, members will be quiet down, they
6 wouldn't doing this, doing that. They used to have
7 a meeting with them every once a week. Nobody
8 doesn't do that anymore.

9 It is tough. But these leaders have to
10 start pulling their socks up for our members.
11 Chief and counsellor and drug and alcohol
12 counsellor. Drug and alcohol counsellor, they're
13 the ones supposed to talk to our members when
14 they're out on the street. They have to talk to
15 them slowly. They can't wait for them go meet them
16 in the office. It's not the way it's supposed to
17 be.

18 I was watching that one video down --
19 outside the William (unintelligible). And what was
20 that video of me? That video, one priest giving
21 moose to our members, that's how it was, and that
22 one lady, one couple, they moved that priest from
23 our community. That's what they did way back
24 there.

25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 DAVID TOM: That's what we need to be doing this in our
2 community. The counsellors, they have to start
3 pulling their socks up, get those people off the
4 street before something happen. Look at that --
5 last month, one young man, they found him out in
6 the beach there, washroom, froze to death.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

8 DAVID TOM: Things like this. Nobody can deal with it. See,
9 it's up to these drug and alcohol counsellors, they
10 have to pulling their socks up. Look after our
11 members, get them off the street. They don't talk
12 to them.

13 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

14 DAVID TOM: They just want them to meet them in the office.
15 It's not right to be in the office. They're the
16 one supposed to talk to our people. That's what
17 they're there for. They can't sit in the office
18 24/7, no ways. They're supposed to go out there
19 and help our people not to do stuff.

20 I went to Moricetown in Smithers,
21 Moricetown counsellors, drug and alcohol
22 counsellors, they have a drop in centre in
23 Smithers, eh. People, they drink so much, they
24 just help themselves there, the drop in centre,
25 talk about their stuff. I seen that. That's what

1 we need. Stuff like that in Burns Lake, drop in
2 centre, that's what we need.

3 So people can slow down, and you never see
4 people get drunk on the street 24/7. I see a lot
5 of people drinking there on the street, but I don't
6 see them anymore. I was doctor's appointment last
7 month, I went for scope test, I went down the
8 street, go for a walk, I don't see anybody hanging
9 around on the street anymore. See going drop in
10 centre, they're doing craft or they can do art,
11 whatever. I went there. Nice place. If they have
12 no places there, they got room for them, that's how
13 it is in Smithers. That's what we need in our
14 community. That place needs to be changed.

15 I've been dealing with Chris Beach,
16 whatever, that mayor from Burns Lake. I talked to
17 him we need a drop in centre, they're working on
18 it, and he never give me an answer back. Same with
19 our leaders. I'm trying to put in a drop in centre
20 for people who are drinking too much on the street.

21 It's the only way they can change, the only
22 way it can work, train them. That's what I told
23 the band, chief and counsellor, get the boys
24 together and train them. Same with drug and
25 alcohol counsellor, just talk to them, send them

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 out for detox, change their life for -- send them
2 out for treatment.

3 Sure, I used to drink a lot. I never
4 drink. But I go off and on, sure, but I don't. If
5 I want to drink, I'll go and drink somewhere else,
6 so nobody wouldn't see me.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

8 DAVID TOM: That's how I am. I don't drink in our area. I
9 don't drink. But I quit drinking. I promised that
10 to myself, to the priest, so I don't drink anymore.

11 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

12 DAVID TOM: But anyway, that's what I need -- like the
13 counsellors have to start stepping up for our
14 members, and they have to start supporting them.
15 Like here I am, who is going to support me?
16 Nobody. Right? Nobody, but maybe you guys can
17 help me. That's how I look at it.

18 Now I feel better if you guys supported me,
19 help me with my sister's case, I would be happy. I
20 want to let this person pay the price for what they
21 did to my sister or whatever. I never seen the
22 report or anything. That's what I want to know.

23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So is there anything that you would like
24 to see from the commissioners and the National
25 Inquiry to honour your sister's memory and those

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

- 1 that we have lost, other women and girls?
- 2 DAVID TOM: I wouldn't mind, but it's going to take time, eh,
3 about these stuff. I know -- I seen this on the
4 news again, people -- too many people making
5 requests and all that. They're not going to deal
6 with this problem like today or tomorrow. It's
7 going to take time down the road, right? That's
8 how it is. I wouldn't mind. I really wouldn't
9 mind support, like, you know what I mean.
- 10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.
- 11 DAVID TOM: If I get support, sure, I can deal with it. Every
12 day, I've been thinking about it, but finally I get
13 into it. Hope something will come true for it, but
14 it's going to take time, right?
- 15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.
- 16 DAVID TOM: I wouldn't mind. And I thank you and her listening
17 to me, and I like to thank Penny --
- 18 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.
- 19 DAVID TOM: -- bringing out here to deal with these problems.
20 It bothers me. Like I said earlier, who is going
21 to help me? Who is going to support me? Nobody.
22 Right? Just me, David Tom here, trying to deal
23 with my sister's case. I don't see any reports or
24 anything, but I wish you guys can help me.
- 25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 DAVID TOM: I know it's going to take time. Right? When I
2 talk to Brenda Wilson earlier yesterday, she says
3 she's going to help.

4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

5 DAVID TOM: That would be nice. And she will, she said, you
6 know, call me whenever, when stuff comes in or
7 whatever, reports and all that, coroner's report.

8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

9 DAVID TOM: And they'll phone me and deal with it. That's what
10 I want to do.

11 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm. Is there anything else that you
12 would like the commissioners to know that we
13 haven't already discussed?

14 DAVID TOM: I wouldn't mind discussing with them, like -- like
15 I said, I don't mind. That's what I mean, it's
16 going to take time, right?

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

18 DAVID TOM: The issues, like whenever they look at the report,
19 well, then they'll call me and deal with it.

20 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

21 DAVID TOM: I don't mind. I like to. I really like to.
22 Because I need support, but who is going to help
23 me?

24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M-hm.

25 DAVID TOM: Again. Maybe you guys can help me. If you guys

David Tom
(Jane Tom)

1 want to do this for me, I would be really happy.
2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.
3 DAVID TOM: And that should be it for me today.
4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Thank you very much for sharing, and I
5 will just say for the record that it's 10:06. I'm
6 going to conclude the recording and we'll continue
7 to talk after.
8 DAVID TOM: All right.
9 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Thank you.
10 DAVID TOM: Thank you.
11 [PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 10:06 A.M.]

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 12th day of March, 2018.

Vicki Webster
Official Reporter