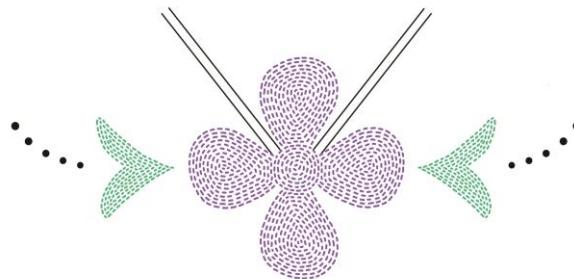


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part I Statement Gathering
Key-oh Lodge
Burns Lake, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Tuesday November 6, 2018

Statement - Volume 572

**Margie Abou & Steven Abou, In relation to Joey
Hamilton Tom, Tony Tom, Jr. & Destiny Rae Tom**

Statement gathered by Bonnie George

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

41-5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2

E-mail: info@irri.net – Phone: 613-748-6043 – Fax: 613-748-8246

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Statement - Public
Margie Abou & Steven Abou
(Joey Hamilton Tom, Tony
Tom, Jr. & Destiny Rae Tom)

1

1 Burns Lake, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 9:04 a.m.

3 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** This is Margie and
4 Steven Abou. Margie's maiden name is Tom. And I'm the
5 statement taker, Bonnie George, with the National Inquiry
6 into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.
7 We're presently in Burns Lake in the Province of British
8 Columbia on November 6th, 2018, and it's approximately 9:04
9 p.m. And today I'm speaking with Margie and her husband
10 Steven Abou, of the -- what First Nations do you come from?

11 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I'm from Wet'suwet'en
12 First Nation.

13 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you spell that?

14 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** W-E-T, apostrophe, S-U-W-
15 E-T, apostrophe, E-N, First Nation.

16 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay, and you reside at?

17 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** The Wet'suwet'en Reserve.

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And Wet'suwet'en is also
19 spelled W-E-T apostrophe, S-U-W-E-T, apostrophe, E-N?

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** First Nation, yes.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** First Nation Reserve?

22 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

23 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay, this is their
24 truth about the family member. They've been affected by
25 the case of possible murdered and missing individuals in

1 the family. So you can start with your story.

2 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I have three members of my
3 family of Wet'suwet'en First Nation that have been
4 murdered, and the first one was my brother Joey Hamilton
5 Tom.

6 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Joey Hamilton, can you
7 spell Hamilton?

8 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** H-A-M-I-L-T-O-N.

9 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And approximately old
10 was he?

11 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** He was 21.

12 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Do you know what year?

13 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I believe it was in the
14 80s.

15 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** The 80s?

16 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes. And it was by two
17 young white men, Ronald Larabie and Ronald, Ron, Ronnie --

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Their both names are
19 Ronald?

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Ronnie and Ronald. Ronald
21 Larabie and Ron Clooney, or something like that.

22 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Were they sentenced?

23 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

24 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Were they prosecuted?

25 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes. And he -- they

Statement - Public
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(Joey Hamilton Tom, Tony
Tom, Jr. & Destiny Rae Tom)

3

1 didn't -- when he went missing, he went missing in Prince
2 George, and he was residing with my sister Elsie in Prince
3 George. And I guess he went to Bingo and he -- to what I
4 heard, that he won Bingo so he went out drinking, and he
5 went -- just before heading home I believe he went to the
6 7/11 on Queensway to get snacks or whatever, and that's
7 when those three young boys met up with him.

8 And they asked him if he wanted to party
9 because they saw that he had booze with him. And they took
10 him back to his place and they tortured him. They tortured
11 him so bad. They used hot oil, they put knife and fork on
12 the burners and heated up and burned him, and they used a
13 lot of other stuff.

14 I didn't hear too much of the rest of the
15 stuff because it was just way too hard for me, to hear what
16 they were doing to him. But I know that they did torture
17 him a lot.

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And how old were you at
19 this time, when this happened?

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I'm 46 right now, so back
21 in the 80s, because I know my sister graduated in '88, so
22 it must have been '87, '88.

23 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you talk a little
24 bit more about how this has affected you since this
25 happened.

1 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I was, I was in high
2 school at that time, and I couldn't even concentrate,
3 nothing. I couldn't you know -- I couldn't be in town.
4 Because we lived 10 kilometres west of Burns Lake here.
5 And it was just really hard to concentrate in school. And
6 back then they didn't have too much help for our community.

7 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you talk a bit more
8 about what you mean by not too much help? Is it not too
9 much help in regards to the investigation, or support by
10 Victim Services, or RCMP?

11 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** It wasn't very much
12 support like counselling and through Victim Services. I
13 don't --

14 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** You guys were never
15 contacted by Victim Services?

16 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Nothing.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And you never had a
18 chance to provide a victim impact statement when --

19 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I believe my older
20 siblings and my mother did. It took them a year to find
21 out where, where they found him. And they found him at the
22 Heather Landfill site in Prince George.

23 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And how -- a year later?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

25 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And that was in the 80s

1 eh?

2 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes. And once they found
3 out that they may have located his body, I guess one of the
4 RCMP took my mom up there to the site, and she had to
5 identify him through there or something like that. And she
6 was by herself, and that really took a toll on her life
7 too. She wasn't herself for the whole year. It took a lot
8 to, you know, help her get over that. She shouldn't have
9 seen her son.

10 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So she had been a year
11 later?

12 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

13 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And with your -- what
14 your brother had endured leading up to that.

15 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** And finally the -- one of
16 the boys, they had got caught because he talked about it,
17 of what he did to my brother. So they -- I guess he told
18 his girlfriend, and his girlfriend told her mother. From
19 there, that's how he got caught. And the other one ran
20 back -- he was from Ottawa or something, or Toronto, and
21 that's where they picked him up, in jail too. Once we were
22 going into trial for court, they would say everything, what
23 they were doing. And I guess there must have been a
24 reporter there at the --

25 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And this was in Prince

1 George?

2 MS. MARGIE ABOU: The courthouse, yes.

3 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: In Prince George?

4 MS. MARGIE ABOU: M'hmm.

5 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Were you present in
6 court at the time?

7 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes, I was. And it was
8 just way too hard for me when I was there, because were not
9 allowed to scream, or swear, or curse, or you know get up
10 and -- you know we weren't supposed to do anything.

11 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Just had to sit there
12 and listen to all those gruesome things.

13 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Sit there and listen. And
14 that was the hardest thing to do, so I have to leave from
15 there. Like there's just -- there was reporters there that
16 wrote down everything, step by step of what they did to my
17 brother. And that got out in a newsletter, and people were
18 just looking at our family, and you know, just kind of
19 saying -- and the RCMP had to take all, take the newspaper
20 off the stands because they didn't have no -- they didn't
21 ask us, our family, for permission if they could put this
22 in the newspaper. So a lot of things were said on there,
23 how he was tortured and everything, and that just really --

24 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: That was another thing
25 that traumatized the family --

1 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

2 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** -- another time, let
3 alone to listen to all the details of what your brother
4 went through and what your mom had to go through,
5 identifying him a year later.

6 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

7 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** That's pretty traumatic.

8 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes it was, especially the
9 part where you had to sit there and listen to what these
10 two young boys -- they were 18 and 19 I believe at the time
11 they did that to my brother. And finally counselling came
12 and, and processed for the family. And we all did
13 individual counselling, or we did group counselling. We
14 did a lot of -- we had a lot of people that were in
15 prayers, that prayed for our family, prayed over us, and
16 especially prayed over my mom.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** That was pretty helpful,
18 to have that support during that time?

19 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. And when they
20 found him he was unrecognizable because they put hot oil
21 all over him, so that he would not be recognized. And they
22 just did so much to him that -- I can't even speak about it
23 because it's just, it's just like -- it does bring memories
24 back.

25 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm. I really

1 appreciate you sharing how this has affected you, and
2 you're sharing your story which will open the doors and
3 help the Inquiry look at our system, and to make
4 appropriate recommendations, especially when it comes to
5 the First Nations people of Canada.

6 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** What made me feel bad, and
7 sometimes I blame myself for Joey missing, because when he
8 was living in Prince Charles, it was an SA day that time,
9 and he wanted me and my brother to stay behind so that he
10 could bring us shopping, or bring us to the movies, or you
11 know just kind of spoil us. And we had school so we
12 weren't allowed to stay. And that's when, that's when -- a
13 few days we found out that he was missing. So that just --
14 I hated myself for a long time. And I never told anybody
15 about this, that I blame myself for his disappearance. You
16 know if me and my brother stayed as he wanted us to, I
17 believe he probably would have still been alive.

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** That's a pretty heavy
19 burden to carry most of your life, since the 80s.

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yeah.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And I also want to
22 encourage you to not take the blame on yourself as well.
23 We tend to live with could have, should have and would
24 have.

25 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes. I pray about it and

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9

1 just ask God to help me just take that away. Because every
2 time, every time you know they talk about missing and
3 murdered Indigenous people, that's when it comes up. It's
4 stuff like this that comes up, and that where it just hits
5 me in the heart.

6 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Because it's such a
7 personal, personal thing. It's just like opening up your
8 wounds all over again.

9 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

10 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Over and over and over
11 and over again.

12 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

13 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** For all of these years.

14 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes. But I know that he's
15 in the arms of God, I know he's happy and he's safe.

16 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And that gives of
17 comfort. That gives us comfort, thinking about loved ones
18 that have passed on before us. So this has affected -- a
19 lot of shame, a lot of blame, and self-respect on yourself?

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Blaming you -- taking
22 the toll of blaming this incident, and gave you the could
23 have, should have and would have guilt that you've carried
24 most of your life. Can you tell me how that affected you
25 throughout your life?

1 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I couldn't go back to
2 school after the news reporters put it on the newsletter --
3 newspapers about what happened to my brother. Because
4 students in school would come up and ask questions, and say
5 did this really happen, you know did they find these
6 murders, or you know who are their names and whatnot. And
7 just like -- I'd just break right down and just cry and say
8 I can't answer anything right now and I'd just walk out of
9 the school. So it affected my education in high school.

10 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So the effect is long
11 term?

12 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. Because I know
13 that people in town at Burns Lake, because this is a small
14 town, they would you know look at our people, look at me or
15 my family, like with pity, with I don't know, with sorrow.
16 It's like they want to hug but they were too scared.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** They didn't know how to
18 react towards you I guess.

19 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yeah, they were -- I guess
20 everybody in this town was in shock because everything they
21 have heard of what my brother was tortured.

22 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm. You mentioned
23 that you had several members in your family?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes, the next murder was
25 my cousin Tony, Tony Tom, Jr. His nickname was Too Tall,

1 Jr.

2 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Tony Tom, Jr.?

3 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes.

4 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: And his nickname?

5 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Too Tall, Jr.

6 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Two as in T-W-O, or like
7 the number two? Or too, too tall?

8 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yeah.

9 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Like very tall?

10 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yeah, he was tall.

11 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Two Tall, Jr.?

12 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes.

13 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Do you want to speak
14 about him?

15 MS. MARGIE ABOU: He was living in Edmonton.
16 Like the last time I seen him was at my cousin's wedding in
17 Prince George. And I guess he went back because he was
18 living in Edmonton. And I guess he was trying to come back
19 home to Prince George, so he was waiting for the bus.

20 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: M'hmm.

21 MS. MARGIE ABOU: And he got, he got
22 murdered at the bus stop by --

23 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: In Edmonton?

24 MS. MARGIE ABOU: M'hmm, by a gang of
25 people. They don't even know -- I don't think they

1 continued the investigation or anything like that. He was
2 age 21.

3 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: What year was that?

4 MS. MARGIE ABOU: I don't know.

5 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: You can't remember?

6 MS. MARGIE ABOU: No.

7 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Like in the 80s, or
8 before the 80s, or after the 80s?

9 MS. MARGIE ABOU: I think it was after the
10 80s, I think it was in the 90s.

11 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Did they ever find out
12 what happened to him?

13 MS. MARGIE ABOU: No, that's all they found,
14 they found his body in the dumpster beside the bus depot.

15 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: And you guys were able
16 to bring him home and have a funeral for him?

17 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yeah, but I believe it was
18 a closed casket.

19 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: M'hmm.

20 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Same with my brother Joey,
21 it was a closed casket.

22 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: So there wasn't really
23 any closure there because you weren't able to see him,
24 right?

25 MS. MARGIE ABOU: M'hmm.

1 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And that has long term
2 affects on families, when they're not able to have closure,
3 especially when it's something we're not used to.

4 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I didn't know my cousin
5 too much, but I knew -- but like I knew him enough to know
6 that he was my relative, and he was a really funny person.
7 My brother Joey was a really quiet person.

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you tell me a little
9 bit more about Joey?

10 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Joey, he would -- he was a
11 hard worker. He always made sure that us kids were fed.

12 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Was he older than you?

13 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

14 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Did he have a family?

15 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** No kids nor spouse. He
16 was a single person.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So having these two
18 incidents early in your life, in your adult life, and not
19 being able to have closure with, with able to be with him,
20 and also not being able to feel that you've been supported
21 by the system, especially with Joey. You stated earlier
22 that there was no support from Victim Services. How do you
23 feel that the RCMP handled the situation? Do you want to
24 speak a little bit about that if you recall anything?

25 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I believe that then they

1 did a good job in, you know, locating him. Because usually
2 if a person goes missing they will never be found. So we
3 did a lot of prayers around Prince George and everything.
4 And I believe that back then they did a good job compared
5 to nowadays. Nowadays it's just like they just sit in
6 their office and diddle with their fingers, and you know
7 just sit there and get paid. And that's just how I feel.

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

9 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** But I believe they did a
10 good job when they were searching for my brother, because
11 we had to fundraise or get you know donations and stuff
12 like that, just for the family to search for my brother
13 around Prince.

14 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So there was a lot of
15 efforts that went into looking for your brother?

16 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So the support by the
18 community and people that supported your family throughout
19 that was -- it sounds like it was quite tremendous?

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Because that was a big,
22 big job, especially for it being a year.

23 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

24 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Is there any more you
25 want to share about your cousin and Joey, Joey your

1 brother?

2 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I don't know -- I don't
3 recall if Tony had any kids or a wife, I don't recall.

4 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** What was your brother's
5 birth date.

6 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** April 19th, and I can't
7 remember the year, sorry.

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Is he older or younger
9 than you?

10 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Younger -- I mean sorry,
11 he's older than me.

12 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay. Do you have --
13 you said at the beginning of our, of our statement of our
14 truth, that you had three family members?

15 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

16 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** We've covered two, and
17 you have another one?

18 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** My niece, Destiny Rae Tom.

19 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you spell Destiny
20 for me?

21 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** D-E-S-T-I-N-Y.

22 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Rae as in R-A-E?

23 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes, age 21.

24 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Do you know what her
25 birth date was?

1 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Her birth date was -- oh
2 sorry, I can't remember. I have too much niece and
3 nephews.

4 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay, that's fine,
5 that's fine. Destiny Rae Tom, and she was your niece?

6 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes. And she got murdered
7 in -- I can't remember what year. My mind's just --

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** It was about two years
9 ago?

10 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** No.

11 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Four years?

12 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Her baby --

13 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Four or five years.

14 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Her baby was three years
15 old, and now her baby is eight.

16 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So five years?

17 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Five years ago.

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So about 2015, about
19 there?

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And the person that
22 murdered her --

23 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** They found him. It was
24 her, it was her spouse, the father of her child.

25 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you tell me how that

1 affected your family?

2 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** The family huge time
3 because how, how he hid it for so long, and how he lied
4 about it. And I guess where her body was found beside --
5 not too far from her car and how she was found. How she
6 was found by her car, we had to stay like 10 feet away or
7 something, and they had the police line and we couldn't
8 pass that line. And we -- us, us family, we wanted to go
9 kind of wake her up, say Destiny get up.

10 Like when I first -- I was in Prince George
11 when I first about Destiny's death. I was there with the
12 kids and we went there on Friday night. And -- can I start
13 all over again?

14 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

15 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** First of all, I was
16 working at the Band office and Destiny and Angel, they came
17 by to visit me. And they had -- Destiny, Garrett and baby,
18 she was three years old, they came by. I was living with
19 my mom. And me, Destiny and Angel went out for a smoke.
20 And just out of the blue I said you girls, if I ever get
21 married you're going to be in my wedding, and they said
22 sure. And Destiny, she seemed scared because she could
23 hear Garrett come down the stairs.

24 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Garrett?

25 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Garrett is her -- the

1 father of her child.

2 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Okay.

3 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Garrett George.

4 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Okay.

5 MS. MARGIE ABOU: And she was scared. She
6 was scared, she said shh, don't say nothing. And just
7 sitting there having our smoke and he comes out, grabbed a
8 smoke from her, and I just went back in and I was just kind
9 of playing around with the baby. Their baby's name is
10 [C.], and she was three years old at the time. And I was
11 just showing baby off to my mom, and mom was just holding
12 her hand. And they came and visit for awhile, but Destiny
13 she -- you could tell she didn't want to leave. She kept
14 telling my mom *engussi*, and Garrett was getting mad at her,
15 come on, let's go, we've got a lot of travel to go, hurry
16 up, let's go. She tried to get her baby to say "mom", but
17 --

18 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: And for the record she
19 said *engussi*, which is in our language, the native
20 language, which means I love you.

21 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes, yes.

22 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: And it's spelled -- we
23 have to spell it for the transcript.

24 MS. MARGIE ABOU: E-N-G-U-S-S-I, and she
25 always said that to my mom, *engussi*, which means I love you

1 in our language. And she kept saying that. It's like she
2 didn't want to leave my mom, she just kept hugging her,
3 just kept hugging her. *Engussi* grandma, *engussi*. And she
4 was just -- she ran to the washroom and when she was done
5 in the washroom she'd go and hug mom again. And she'd ask
6 if I had a water bottle. I said it's in the kitchen, so
7 she went to the kitchen, grabbed a water bottle, and then
8 she was going to -- she was just going to get ready to
9 leave but she ran to mom, telling mom *engussi*. And that's
10 the last time my -- we got to see Destiny because she made
11 her way to -- back to Nadleh, because that's where they
12 were residing.

13 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** With Nadleh, can you
14 spell Nadleh?

15 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** N-A-D-L-E-H, Nadleh
16 Reserve.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And that's about two
18 hours or one hour drive from here, from Burns Lake?

19 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** An hour and a half.

20 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** An hour and a half
21 drive.

22 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** An hour and 20 minutes,
23 somewhere around there. And so it was Thursday when they
24 came back. And then Friday Angelica, and Angelica is the
25 one that's best friends with Destiny. They're the same age

1 and they grew up together.

2 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Can you spell Angelica?

3 MS. MARGIE ABOU: A-N-G-E-L-I-C-A Tom.

4 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: And Angelica is your
5 niece, which is Destiny's first cousin?

6 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes. They were like
7 sisters, they grew up together. They totally loved each
8 other, they were inseparable. And so I took my three kids,
9 and I took my two nieces -- no, my niece and nephew, and
10 then I took Angelica and her two babies with me to Prince
11 George and we got a room on the Friday. We made it on time
12 to do a little bit of shopping. And then I received a
13 phone call from Chenara Tom, who is sister of Destiny.

14 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Can you spell Chenara?

15 MS. MARGIE ABOU: C-H-E-N-A-R-A.

16 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: A-R-A?

17 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes.

18 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Chenara Tom, which is
19 Destiny's sister?

20 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes. And she was just
21 crying. I said Chenara what's wrong? She goes it's
22 Destiny. I said what's wrong? Destiny, she's gone. I
23 said what do you mean she's gone? And she just kept
24 crying, she couldn't tell me. I said please, I said tell
25 me what's wrong. And I could just hear her crying. And

1 she goes Destiny's gone. I said, I said how do you mean, I
2 just kept trying to tell her to tell me, what do you mean
3 gone, like dead? And she was just crying. And Angel, she
4 was sleeping on the next bed over, and she just jumped up
5 and she knew what I was saying because she could just hear
6 me talking on the phone. And she was just -- she just
7 started screaming. She knew. She really -- she knew that
8 what I meant was Destiny's gone.

9 I said -- I asked Chenara, I said where are
10 you? She goes I'm going to go see mom. Destiny's parents
11 were staying at the Ramada. I said I'm going to gather up
12 all the kids, I said we'll go up to Wayne's place. She
13 goes okay, I'll go get them and we'll meet you guys up
14 there. And me and Destiny -- sorry, me and Angelica just
15 kept screaming and crying, taking turns.

16 And I had to keep myself calm because I was
17 driving the vehicle. I had to really keep myself calm.
18 And I just gathered up all our stuff, gathered up all the
19 kids, got in the vehicle and we went to my brother Wayne's
20 place. And that's where we met up with Andy, Vivian,
21 Chenara and Auntie Ginger, and they had baby with them,
22 baby [C.]. Oh no, they didn't have [C.], I just -- it was
23 just Andy, Vivian, Chenara and Ginger because [C.] was at
24 the Nadleh Reserve with Destiny and Garrett.

25 I guess party happened that night, and

1 that's where he beat her, beat her up so bad. I guess he
2 kicked her so bad her ribs went through her heart. And she
3 was internal bleeding inside, and he did her head, kicked
4 it so bad that there was internal bleeding there. And he
5 did a lot of stuff. And it was that too, it was so hard to
6 hear because when we're hearing about what he did to her,
7 it's just like it came back about what my brother went
8 through, and just kind of imaging what my cousin Tony went
9 through, and it was just really hard.

10 And everybody was just in shock. Auntie
11 Vivian, they had to get their niece to drive. We all left
12 Prince George and we went to Nadleh, and that's when we saw
13 her body lying on the ground there. There's a little bit
14 of snow.

15 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Do you remember which
16 month that you would see that?

17 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Pardon?

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Which month was that?

19 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** It was March.

20 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** March?

21 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

22 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Approximately March
23 2015, right?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. And we were all
25 just kind of screaming, pacing back and forth, trying to

1 call her, trying to wake her up. And we could just see her
2 body under the tarp. And I could just see her hair, just
3 like she was being pulled around. I guess they didn't
4 cover her body -- it was like, sort of like a see through
5 tarp. You can tell she was badly beaten. You can tell her
6 hair was just so messy, and how he said where the location
7 he first started beating her up.

8 I don't believe in my heart that he did it
9 himself, because for a fact there was a party and this
10 news, getting ready to pass out so I had to call Chenara
11 and Andy, come pick her up because we couldn't leave her,
12 there's an outside party. And three, three people had a
13 hard time packing her to the vehicle. That's how heavy she
14 was, even how skinny she was. She was only 120 pounds and
15 it took three people to carry her. And I believe in my
16 heart there was more people involved with Destiny's death,
17 because he told -- Garrett told us where he murdered her,
18 and then it was quite a ways to where her vehicle was. So
19 I don't know if there was other people that were involved,
20 kind of helped. And to me, I just know in my heart.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** How do you think --
22 after seeing that, how do you think the RCMP handled the
23 investigation?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Not very good, because
25 with all the past traumatic that Destiny went through with

1 Garrett --

2 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** There was a history?

3 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** A bad history of what he
4 did to Destiny. She was seven months pregnant when she got
5 stabbed three times by three different knives by Garrett,
6 right in Andy and Vivian's place. There was hair all over,
7 there was blood all over.

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So the family knows of
9 obvious history between Garrett with Destiny?

10 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

11 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And has it been reported
12 to --

13 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Reported numerous times.

14 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay.

15 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Even one in Prince George
16 when they had their own place I heard of Garrett beating
17 her up so many times. He threatened -- like that's why she
18 was scared to leave him. He threaten to kill the family,
19 he threatened to kill the baby, he threatened to kill her
20 and threatened to kill himself.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And you stated that
22 there was that alcohol involvement in that party she was at
23 that night in Nadleh?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes.

25 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** I'm just clarifying

1 everything because I'm writing the notes down, and I want
2 to make sure I have accurate notations here.

3 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. I don't think he
4 was good -- it was his birthday I believe, and I heard a
5 story that when they went to the bar Destiny was driving
6 but she wasn't drinking, and he couldn't even buy her a
7 pop, he treated her so bad. She went outside for a smoke
8 and these people said that they saw how scared she looked,
9 and how she was treated by him, that he didn't even buy her
10 a pop or anything, but he was buying himself, his brother
11 and their friend drinks.

12 And I guess they went back to Nadleh to
13 party, and Garrett went crazy, so they were just trying to
14 calm him down. And Destiny got really scared, so she was
15 kind of hiding behind people, and they told Garrett to
16 leave and he wouldn't leave without her. And I guess
17 finally she went to go look for him, and that's when he
18 probably was waiting for her outside. And that's when that
19 stuff happened, and I believe -- somebody talked about they
20 heard screaming but they didn't think nothing of it. And
21 that's when he was murdering her at that time.

22 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Do you know the birth
23 date of Destiny, did I ask you that?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** April --

25 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** But she was 21 years old

1 when it happened?

2 MS. MARGIE ABOU: I don't know if it was
3 April, sorry I can't remember.

4 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: Okay, but just so I have
5 an idea so I can write it down. But she was 21 years of
6 age?

7 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Yes.

8 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: So with a long history
9 of alcohol-fuelled violence in that relationship, you made
10 mention that it was violent relationship.

11 MS. MARGIE ABOU: M'hmm.

12 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: How do you think the
13 system as in Victim Services or RCMP, were they involved
14 with, with Destiny at all at any point that you're aware
15 of? Was there any supports for her?

16 MS. MARGIE ABOU: I believe -- I have no
17 idea if they had any support for her, but the first time he
18 beat her up so bad we couldn't even recognize her face, and
19 she was pregnant at the time. And I guess it was -- at
20 that time it was my auntie and uncle's anniversary, wedding
21 anniversary, the renewal of their vows.

22 MS. BONNIE GEORGE: M'hmm.

23 MS. MARGIE ABOU: Auntie Violet and Billy,
24 and I guess Destiny and Garrett were at home, and that's
25 when he beat her up so bad. And he made her use a long

1 coat so she covered her face, and they were hitchhiking
2 back to Nadleh. And they didn't want to go to the dance,
3 because the way he beat her up so bad.

4 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** To hide her from your
5 family?

6 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. So Andy and Vivian
7 -- or Vivian went back to the place and she called the
8 cops, because she was calling for Destiny. No reply,
9 nothing. And she had a cell and he took it away so she
10 couldn't reply to it. I guess they were trying to
11 hitchhike back so he could hide her down there until she
12 looked better. And I guess the cops caught them on the
13 highway hitchhiking back, and that's when he got charged
14 for beating her up. And they had to take a picture of the
15 knife marks and take a picture of her face.

16 I know there's more numerous times that he
17 did that to her. We all kept talking to her, and talking
18 to her. But I guess it's threat of how he -- you know how
19 he always lures her back into his life. And it was just a
20 repeat.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm. Can you tell me
22 what you can remember about Destiny, what kind of person
23 she was?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** She was really outgoing,
25 she was funny. She never had -- hardly ever had any

1 enemies. She always helped her mom, she really loved her
2 daughter. And her and her daughter stayed with me, lived
3 with me for a few months. And she always made sure she
4 tried to look -- go towards her goal. And she would find
5 odd jobs, you know, just find jobs here and there, just to
6 try to save to go back to school to be a nurse.

7 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** That's what she wanted
8 to be, a nurse?

9 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. She was very
10 beautiful. And her daughter looks, image like her. It's
11 like watching Destiny grow up all over again.

12 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And her daughter's name
13 is [C.]?

14 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** [C.].

15 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you spell that for
16 me please?

17 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** [C.].

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And [C.]'s last name is
19 Tom?

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Tom yes. But we realized
21 -- like not to say for sure, but it seems like somebody put
22 a curse on our family for age 21 to be death in our family.
23 So what we had to do is we did prayer walk, we did a lot of
24 praying to rebuke that, to pray against that. Just so that
25 nothing else more happens to our family.

1 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

2 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Because Joey Tom, Tony
3 Tom, Destiny Tom, all aged 21, all get murdered.

4 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Has anyone gone to
5 Residential School in your family?

6 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** My dad and a little bit of
7 -- my mom went for three days.

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So there's been some
9 exposure of residential school?

10 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. And the saddest
11 thing, the saddest thing is that Garrett didn't get very
12 much time for Destiny's murder just because it's
13 residential school. And like to me -- I believe they
14 should never use residential because it lessens their you
15 know jail term. And using residential should not be used
16 because, you know a person is person. And if they know
17 what they're doing, if they're healthy, if they're strong,
18 they make themself look good out there, but you know
19 murdering a person is still murder. To me I know that they
20 should get, you know, longer sentence.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So you feel that the
22 sentence that he received wasn't --

23 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Wasn't enough at all.

24 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So your family felt that
25 the system had failed you because of your --

1 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Because of residential.
2 Because he used his grandma, and how his grandma treated
3 him, and how his mom treated him. But I don't think he was
4 raised by his dad. I'm not sure about that, but I know
5 that he used his mom and mostly his grandmother. And I
6 know for a fact that his grandmother went to residential
7 school, I'm unsure about his mom though. So that's what
8 the system used was residential school.

9 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So you as the family of
10 Destiny, the victim of a murder, you felt that the system
11 hasn't treated your family very well?

12 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm. I believe in my
13 heart because of his past history, he should have gotten
14 life sentence. I know for my brother Joey, one of them got
15 out after 10 years, and the other one's in for life, but
16 he's trying to get parole now.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And that still affects
18 your family quite terribly?

19 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Yes. Because my sister's
20 still attending courts for that.

21 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So there's a long, long,
22 long history of the system with the Tom family, with all
23 these deaths?

24 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

25 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And with all that it's

1 fair to say that the system hasn't treated your family as
2 members who lost loved ones due to, due to murder?

3 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Murdered and missing
4 Indigenous people. People say MMIW, which is missing and
5 murdered Indigenous women, but I think they should change
6 that to missing and murdered indigenous people because, you
7 know, there's a lot of males that are out there that are
8 missing too. Both of all ages. I know there's old people,
9 kids, babies.

10 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And that's the purpose
11 of all this. The whole Inquiry is to look at it fails our
12 First Nations people.

13 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** M'hmm.

14 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And this is your
15 opportunity to share, and if there's any recommendations --
16 like you shared that it should be including males and all
17 ages. Any other recommendations that you would like to --
18 because this would be your change to make recommendations
19 where people can hear your recommendations.

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Just that they should not
21 use the residential school in court cases, because -- just
22 how the story went of the court and everything that was
23 written down about what Garrett did to Destiny. And then
24 it's just like he got eight years and it's like all this
25 got erased. Just like all this never meant -- means

1 nothing. And you know I think murder is murder, they
2 should get life.

3 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

4 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** Regardless of race,
5 regardless of gender, regardless of you know religion,
6 anything.

7 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm, m'hmm. So that's
8 where the system had failed your family, and it failed you
9 three times, and it failed Destiny's daughter who has to
10 grow up without her mom.

11 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** And dad.

12 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And dad. Any other
13 recommendations that you see, that you would like to make?

14 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** That the family should get
15 kind of like -- I know it's not going to bring back the
16 individual that got murdered, I know it's not going to
17 bring them back, but the family should get compensated.
18 Because I know for a fact that Andy and Vivian are not
19 getting very much help for raising their granddaughter.

20 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Has Victim Services been
21 involved with the family?

22 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** I have no idea about that,
23 I'm not too sure. I know my -- I don't think that my mom
24 ever got -- and I have another one that I forgot to
25 mention. My oldest brother, he was the oldest. And to me

1 -- I was told that he got murdered, because him and my
2 cousin [Cousin], him and our cousin -- I can't remember his
3 name. They were racing on the highway and that's why my
4 brother got in an accident. And he used to work for the
5 railway and my mom never got compensated for that either.

6 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So that's four family
7 members, of your family, that's been affected by --

8 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** There was one more, but
9 that was before I was born. That's when Destiny's dad,
10 Andy Sr., that's my brother. He was probably about five or
11 six. I'm assuming five or six. Like our reserve was right
12 here, and the mailbox was -- there was a road and the
13 mailbox was up here. And my brother and -- my two
14 brothers, they went to go check the mail, and my brother
15 Andy would -- Ronnie and Andy went to go check for mail and
16 Ronnie got scared of a butterfly so he went on the highway
17 and he got hit by a semi, and my mom never got compensated
18 for him too.

19 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So that's a lot of
20 trauma for your family, that you guys have experienced.

21 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** My sister Patricia, late
22 sister Patricia, witnessed that too. So I believe there
23 should be compensation for, you know, even past deaths for
24 the family. Because I know families could never, they
25 could never get rid of that pain, they could never forget

1 it, they will always vision it when hearing, or seeing, or
2 even watching a movie. And I know it tears people down,
3 the way they hear it and see it. I know there's a lot of
4 other stuff that triggers the family.

5 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Is there anything else
6 that you'd like to share or recommend?

7 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** No, that's --

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Any final words that you
9 want to say?

10 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** My heart goes out to all
11 those people who have endured a family member who went
12 missing or murdered. And my prayers go out to all of the
13 families affected by the missing and murdered indigenous
14 people.

15 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Do you want to say
16 anything?

17 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Huh?

18 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Do you want to say
19 anything?

20 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** I would like to say
21 something. I grew up in a bad environment. I've been
22 raised up from my grandparents, I've been raised up by
23 [Grandfather], and my grandmother [Grandmother]. I can't
24 spell her name, [Grandmother]. But they were both in a
25 reservation school. My grandmother [Grandmother] was there

1 for seven years, and my grandfather [Grandfather] was there
2 for four years. So I was abused when I was a kid. I was
3 beaten, when I didn't listen I was locked in a box, I was
4 locked in a box for hours. I was knocked out from my
5 grandfather.

6 And I thought I was safe when I went with my
7 Auntie. I thought I was safe when I was away from my
8 grandparents when I went drinking. But my Auntie raped me
9 when I was a kid. So I went through a lot of things in my
10 life.

11 And still to this day I went -- I grew up as
12 Catholic. I had a lady I used to really love, her name was
13 Sister Elaine. The priest was Father Brian. And I went to
14 them when I can, and I always got prayers, and I always
15 believed in God with all my heart.

16 But my grandfather was very abusive to me as
17 I was growing up as a childhood age. Grandfather used to
18 hit me with a Skidoo belt when I didn't listen. But I did
19 always listen, but if there's one thing I don't do for them
20 they'll hurt me. But my grandmother, she didn't hurt me.
21 She stand up for me and she was crippled. She was always
22 there for me.

23 So I believe the system has failed me big
24 time because there was nobody there to support me. My
25 mother wasn't there, I didn't met my dad in my life. And

1 then when I was getting older a lot of family passed away
2 that I know because of drinking. Driving their Quads or
3 their Skidoos.

4 So I was very hurt as a childhood age, as a
5 kid. Raped, didn't know what was happening to me. And I
6 still forgive them for what they did to me. My Auntie who
7 raped me, her name was [Auntie A]. I can't remember her
8 last name.

9 But anyways my grandfather -- my
10 grandmother, I don't know how she passed on, but I was away
11 at the time when she passed on. And I -- I went there, I
12 wanted to see if something was wrong with her, and I seen
13 her the last time. I went to her bedroom and she was
14 coughing up some kind of brown stuff. She told me to run
15 and get help and ran to get help. By the time I got help
16 it was too late, she was passed on.

17 So she was the love of my life, she
18 supported me in everything. And I never got help from RCMP
19 or anything. Nobody helped me with the devastation I went
20 through, I never told anybody about it or nothing, until
21 this day.

22 And about four or five years ago my
23 grandfather passed on. And he got murdered, [Grandfather],
24 he got murdered from I don't know who, but he got runned
25 over by a vehicle. And the cops didn't do anything about

Statement - Public
Margie Abou & Steven Abou
(Joey Hamilton Tom, Tony
Tom, Jr. & Destiny Rae Tom)

37

1 it, they're thinking it's [Man 1], but I don't really know.

2 So my back, it really hurts, it really pains
3 me because of the trauma my grandfather put me through.

4 Because he beated me, he knocked me out, and locked me in a
5 -- it was like a -- I can't even really remember. It was a
6 wide enough box, it was a wooden box, and there's where he
7 locked me after he knocks me out and beat me up. He locks
8 me in there sometimes all day, until he gets sober and take
9 me back out. After he's sober, and I was just traumatized
10 and scared of him.

11 And it really affects me today. I'm scared,
12 I'm afraid to be out there. Even how big a person that I
13 am, I'm still scared. That's why I couldn't trust the
14 cops, because I'm scared. I'm afraid of people. I can't
15 trust anyone because of the pain and trauma I went through.

16 But the really hard thing is losing them,
17 even that they hurt me. Because I had nobody else to turn
18 to. My mom, she was an alcoholic, she wasn't really there
19 for me much. Now that she quit drinking -- I still love
20 her, I still forgive, I believe in God with all my heart.
21 I just wish there was support, or I wish there was support
22 there at the time, when all this happened to me.

23 I've got no one to run to, to ask for help
24 or anything. I've hardly got any family that really cares
25 for me, except for my wife now. That's all I care about

1 now. Like things is way better now though.

2 Just a few months ago kind of bad things
3 happened to me, I was trying to get help from the police
4 but they didn't want to help me.

5 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So again it's misconduct
6 and help from the RCMP, from the authorities when you need
7 help?

8 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Help from anybody. Like I
9 should be getting compensation from all the trauma I went
10 through from my grandparents, because like what happened
11 like from Lejac to them went onto me.

12 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

13 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** It's like all the hurt
14 that they went through, they put it on me and hurt me
15 because they've got nobody else to pick on. Like I was
16 really hurt, and abused, and raped. Nobody was there for
17 me. It really hurts me today to see all the things that's
18 going on, how it is. Still to this day there's no help.
19 Like our own native people against other, hurting one
20 another for no reason. We're Natives from the north, we're
21 supposed to stand up for one another, protect each other,
22 help one another.

23 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

24 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** And I don't see that
25 anymore. There's people hitchhiking on the road and people

1 just -- Natives hitchhiking on the road and they don't get
2 picked up when other Natives drive by them. And my other
3 cousin, Barry Seymour, he's been missing for awhile now. I
4 don't know really what's happening with that.

5 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And where is this out
6 of?

7 **MR. STEVEN0 ABOU:** Prince George.

8 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Prince George?

9 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Yeah. I'm afraid of
10 Prince George completely.

11 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** How long has he been
12 missing?

13 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** At least six years I
14 think, I'm pretty sure. I think he was -- I can't remember
15 28 or 30, around there. Around the fall time I'm pretty
16 sure, winter, somewhere around there.

17 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

18 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** I just heard about it in
19 Vancouver, when I was down in Vancouver working, and I
20 heard about my cousin went missing. I said holy cow,
21 what's going in? It's sad for the family because they
22 grewed up him. And he was a good hockey player and
23 everything.

24 And when I didn't have nowhere to go at the
25 time, when I was a little older, I was around 14, 15, I

1 used to stay with him mom and dad because they were -- he
2 used to be on welfare eh, like welfare care?

3 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

4 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** And I was kind of staying
5 there when my parents -- grandparents was drinking, because
6 I was getting beaten, eh? So I was too scared to stay home
7 when my grandfather and grandmother was drinking because I
8 got beat up a lot.

9 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** So you grew up with your
10 aunt and uncle, which is Barry's parents?

11 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Sometimes I stayed there,
12 when I had the time to runaway. And his name is Jerry
13 Seymour and Fay Seymour. Yeah, there's been a lot of
14 things in my life I went through. And still to this day
15 I'm still alive and I thank God for that. And I just wish
16 our native people could really stand up for one another and
17 support each other.

18 Like you know I'm still going through a lot
19 of trauma in my life right now. Like why would our own
20 people want to hurt each other, you know, like murder?
21 Like my Uncle Georgie, he got murdered from his own cousin.
22 He was sleeping in his bed and his cousin came in when he
23 was passed out drunk and shot him the back with a .30-30
24 gun. And his name is [Man 2].

25 There's a lot of trauma went through my

1 family, and still to this day there's a lot of things
2 happening. Like even my [Auntie B], she murdered her own
3 husband, stabbed him. I just wish I could get compensation
4 for what happened to me when I was a kid though.

5 My grandmother, she passed away before the
6 Lejac compensation went through. Like she passed away two
7 to three years before the compensation started. And she'd
8 been there over seven years, and she was abused and
9 brutalized. She -- because of Lejac all her hands were
10 cripple. And even she was cripple she still beated, she
11 still did the hide and everything. That's how tough she
12 was. She loved me with all her heart, but it was my
13 grandfather that was the one that abused me.

14 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm.

15 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** He was mean because of
16 what happened to him. He was raped, he told me Grandpa
17 [Grandfather], he said some priest rape him, other men rape
18 him. That's why I think he wasn't all there, because of
19 all of that, what he went through.

20 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** M'hmm. Is there any
21 recommendations that you would like to --

22 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** What's that mean?

23 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** What do you think would
24 make things better for us as First Nations people, as you
25 as First Nations people?

1 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Well I think the best
2 thing is to have a program going to support and make a way
3 for each other to have a safe world to go through, and have
4 a safe place to be when they need help and support, for all
5 the people that's going through hard times. And to be
6 actual cared for and treated like a human being, and have
7 pride for one another when we need help.

8 We are native people, we're supposed to
9 stand tall, help one another, protect each other. This is
10 what we're here for. We believe in God and Mother Nature.
11 You're supposed to be there like thick and thin, because
12 that's why God made us here for.

13 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** We should never be feared
14 upon, we should never be feared against each other. And
15 our people should never be feared from the RCMP. You know
16 they're supposed to protect and serve. I'm also hearing so
17 much stories, like it's a nonstop what the RCMP do to our
18 people.

19 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Yes.

20 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** They beat, they kill, they
21 rape.

22 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** They treat us like
23 animals. I was hurt, and I was alone a long time. I tried
24 to ask for help and they didn't come and help me. Like
25 there's no support there. Where are we going to go for

1 help, where are we going to go for support? How are we
2 going to trust the RCMP?

3 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** How are we going to trust
4 each other?

5 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** Where is the love?
6 Where's our freedom? Where's our beliefs? Everything's
7 going missing.

8 **MS. MARGIE ABOU:** And now we lost our
9 language, we lost our culture.

10 **MR. STEVEN ABOU:** I think the whole system
11 is failing us.

12 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Those are pretty strong
13 recommendations, and if you're done, I want to thank you
14 both for your time, and I want to thank you both for
15 participating with this Inquiry. And it is now 10:21.
16 We're in Burns Lake at the Key-oh Lodge. I'm going to turn
17 the equipment off now. Thank you.

18 --- Upon adjourning at 10:21 a.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Sherry Hobe, 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.



Sherry Hobe

December 18, 2018