National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Truth-Gathering Process

Part 1 Statement Gathering

Nuu-Chah-Nulth MMIWG Gathering

Tseshahht First Nation [Ts'ishaa7ath] - Maht Maws

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Statement - Volume 172

Wayne Keitlah, Cynthia Keitlah,
Rowena Cootes and Matthew Titian,
In relation to Nadine Marshall

Statement gathered by Wendy van Tongeren,
Commission Counsel

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MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: All right. So it's about 23 minutes after 1:00 and today is September 12th, 2017.

And so I have some good people with me here today. And it's Wendy van Tongeren who is speaking. And we're here for the purpose of conducting another interview in Port Alberni.

And so I'm going to start with a lovely lady to my right. So if you could just say your name, first name, last name, and then spell -- if they're difficult names, spell both of them, and if not --

MS. ROWENA COOTES: Okay. My name is Rowena Cootes, R-O-W-E-N-A and C-O-O-T-E-S.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Thank you.

I don't think you did it last time, Gertrude, did you?

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: No, I didn’t.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. Can't forget you.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: My name is Gertie Pierre and I am an Elder to the Inquiry from Sechelt.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. I'm old but I'm not an elder now.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Thank you so much.

MS. DIANA WING: Diana Wing (phonetic).


MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: I'm Matthew Titian, T-I-T-I-A-N.


MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And who's left? Does anyone have an objection if I turn the camera on? No. Okay. Is there video? I don’t see.

So this is amazing, what your community is doing. I think it's exactly what people were intending at the initial stages of the Inquiry, to just make sure that it's steered by the community, steered by -- you know, the idea of having the comfort of the community and then people step out and speak and then step back in. And these other buildings have all that support to just -- it's a wonderful way to do it and I just feel so honoured to bear witness to this, what your community has designed, what you're doing.
Oh, sorry. That's my size 10s getting in your way.

So I'm a lawyer with the Inquiry. I've been a lawyer in British Columbia for almost 40 years and I spent most of my career actually practising criminal law and then I retired from that and I got my yoga teaching certificate to make up for all those years. And then I was invited to join the Inquiry, which I did do in January of this year. It's an amazing experience.

So the purpose here is that what you say -- and it's one of the reasons why we record it -- is that the Commissioners are investigating. They're inquiring and then they will be reporting on certain issues which are actually written out in what is called the Terms of Reference, which is kind of like a grocery list of things that they have to do.

And the main thing that makes this just a little bit slightly more complicated than just telling a narrative, telling an experience, is the Commissioners in these Terms of Reference are asked to identify what it is that systemically is contributing to the vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls and LGBT two-spirited people.

So I'm sure you can think of a number of systemic things that contribute. But an example would be -- you know, I think a clear example would be a policy that
the police would have that if somebody reported someone
missing they had to wait 48 hours before they did
something.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That would be an
example. But there's many examples. There's examples like
a woman has her children taken away so she no longer gets
Social Assistance, and so she can't -- doesn't have an
apartment any more. So clearly that contributes to her
vulnerability, right?

And that's a -- these are policies and
systems that have developed over the years, ironically, in
order to maintain a safety net for people. And it ends up
being the opposite because there's trust broken when things
that one is expecting is taken away without them really
appreciating what the rules are and without having anyone
else who will look after those responsibilities.

So I'm just inviting you, when you give your
narrative about your lost family member -- and I'm not sure
if -- I think, Wayne, you could say that she was found,
yeah. So it's -- and was it actually articulated to be a
homicide? Yeah.

So when you describe -- and you will decide
amongst yourselves who will do the telling. When you
describe it, just talk about things that you believe are
relevant from the heart that you want to say, because I think it's important that you're here to actually -- to speak and have others bear witness on what you're saying because this works at so many levels.

There's the information but there's also the opportunity for you to once again bring this to the fore and to process it with a view to engage in a path of healing.

But from the information collection aspect, see if you can intertwine in the story about what happened to your loved one perhaps disappointments you had or even gratitude that you had for agencies that either didn’t help or did help. And usually in these things the agencies -- it could be Child Welfare, there could be school, it could be a hospital, it could be a priest, could be paramedics, it could be the coroner.

So you know with whom you had connections during all of this and you just -- you can wait until the end and talk about that and tell the story first and then go back or -- but that's -- I'm just sharing that with you so that you know that's what the Commissioners would like to hear as well as -- as long as you and the many others who are coming forward are saying that something didn’t work well, it's coming -- well, it's coming often enough.

And it goes beyond just the fact that
somebody has been murdered. It also has to do with the whole scenario about dealing with that before, during, and after.

So what needs to happen now is for me to be quiet so that people can talk. Because this is going to Commissioners, one further thing I would say; you saw me all struggling with trying to pronounce your -- pronounce and spell your names, so if you use anyone's name, if you do remember and we'd really appreciate it if you just spell it. And if you don't do that we'll have to go back at the end.

And similarly, if you decide that -- to step in to say something, because we're dealing with the recording devices, if you could just say, "Matthew here," so that we always know who's talking, okay? And I know you'll forget and we'll promise to forgive each other in advance for not doing that. But I might just pipe in and say, "That was Matthew or that was Cynthia." Okay?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So I really won't interrupt very much at all. I'll just take some notes and might ask some questions if it looks like it's appropriate. But it's mostly important to hear you speak.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I always had a lot of anger. I went through my grievance already. I went
through everything. And then I -- there was no help from anybody in any agency in Victoria. The MCU, they were no help. We phoned them every week asking, "What's going on?"

Same thing happened with my mom's husband. They closed his case file.

I just feel like we're just being discriminated against everything in Victoria. And I deal with that on a daily basis over there. It's just -- they're no help over there. No one is.

All my family, they all live here in Port Alberni and I'm alone by myself now in Victoria. And it's time for me to move back home.

And the way I deal with my anger is drinking. I don’t want to do that any more. I just have too much anger towards everybody in Victoria like the MCU, paramedics, everybody. We get treated with discrimination on a daily basis over there.

But with my mom, she lives in a part of town that she never goes to. She never leaves downtown. She's always downtown. There's no reason why she should be in Esquimalt that far in Esquimalt. She's never crossed that bridge. And you know my mom because we lived in Port Alberni for about 20 plus years before she passed away.

Last thing I remember is that she said she was going to come back. She was friends with some guy in a
wheelchair. Now that guy is nowhere to be found in up in Victoria.

I don't know. It's just hard for me to be in Victoria myself. But it's my home. It was my mom's home too. That's the only reason why I'm staying in Victoria because if I leave Victoria, like if I had made my mom -- but I don't know. I just ---

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What happened, Wayne?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I don't know. She was -- it was her payday. We were drinking at my brother's. Then she said she was going to step outside for a bit. Said she'll be right back five minutes later. She said she was just going to go to the store. She never came back.

Two days later Steven phoned, told me that. I said, "Have you heard from Mommy?" And that's when he told me, "Mom is -- Grandma, she was found dead behind the hockey rink."

Like, the cops (inaudible). I asked the paramedics what happened. They didn’t say anything to me. And now, I don't know what happened. It's -- no one's given me any answers over there.

Now I lost touch with my brothers. I lost touch with my sister. We hardly ever see each other. I'm just tired of doing things all by myself. I have a few...
friends but that's it. Like, they're -- I don't know. I just need to get of Victoria but I can't because I have a tie with my mom. I don’t want to leave but I do.

That's my opinion on the MCU. They're useless.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What does the MCU stand for, Wayne?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Major Crimes Unit. That was who was dealing with the cases. I've forgot the name of the officer that was doing the case for my mom.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is that in Esquimalt?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, Island MCU.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, so is that ---

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Victoria PD.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- Victoria City?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, it was Victoria PD that took the case and they gave to Island MCU.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so that's the Victoria RCMP?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I think so. But I definitely forgot the name of the officer who was doing my mom’s case because my late grandfather, he was calling in too every week to see what -- if there was any news on my mom. And every week it was the same thing: nothing.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: There is an organization that can help you with -- if an issue for you is finding out what happened to your mom and if that can be done through documents. There is an organization called Family Information Liaison Unit which is -- you can get a number by contacting victim services, for example. And they're providing services kind of parallel to the services that the Inquiry is providing for people who participate. But one of the things that they do is they ask for documents for you, like, coroner's reports, paramedic documents, that type of thing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: Well, who's close who's to say this to him? Who's to tell him that, "You should look here" when he's already annoying the police people already?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, I don't know if he -- have you been in touch with them?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Not for quite some time.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: FILU?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: But for the first couple of years I was.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: With FILU?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Not FILU, but just with the MCU.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. No, it's a -
- it's not a police organization.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: I know. I know that.

But who is telling us if the police aren't telling anything. Who's going to tell him that you can look here or that option wasn't there for him; that's what he's saying.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I thought because the people who are working for FILU, their job is to help him.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: The police, it's not their job to help him.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that's why they (inaudible). Their job was to try to solve the murder.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm. And you can -- I can really feel how angry Wayne is. For one, it scared me to talk to him because he knew the truth; he knew a lot more than I did.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm. That is Cynthia speaking.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: I was scared for a long time to approach him or his brother and sister, which (inaudible) sister [led us astray], you know. It took away that time from us. And the fact that I'm his aunt and
she's my sister and the whole thing just terrified me
because you know, I felt guilty not knowing the answers,
too afraid to know the answers.

And I was kind of like in this lost cloud
where Wayne is but in my own area. I don’t know where, I
was just, okay, if I don’t go this way I'll be fine. If I
go that way a little bit, I'll (inaudible) because that was
my dad's area.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M’hm.

**MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH:** And he'd call her Didi
and we called her Vi. She used to be called Viola. She
took out a great big piece of my dad's heart when she left.

If there was something I could do or say to
my dad, you know? It was hurt there, hurt here, and not
understanding.

The phone would ring periodically about the
case and disappointment in his voice saying that they told
us nothing, you know, phoned to tell us there is nothing.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M’hm.

**MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH:** And I didn’t even want
to question them. I didn’t want to go that far as to find
out how he was feeling or whatnot because I know he -- it
was hard. It was hard losing my sister. It was hard. She
just -- it just seemed like it shattered the whole family,
losing my sister. And it was just like, do we walk this
way, you know? We get more cracked.

It was just walking away gently around the subject, her because there was just so much unknown in my area that I feel that wasn’t answered, that wasn’t saying, "It's okay to go on," go on because I'm more anxious to prove, like, the whole thing is not alright. It's just not alright ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: --- to go forward.

It's just like whatever we get, like, what my dad was hoping for is not going to happen. It would just help him at ease to move forward, to move on. And we were all just holding our breath, I guess, figuring out what to make of it. We're not getting any information about what happened.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Can you tell me a little bit about like, when this happened?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: In the summertime.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What month?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: In -- yeah, and they phoned me. The phone calls you mean or which part?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, when she went missing.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Oh.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She didn’t go missing.

She was just found August 3rd, 2012.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She was only gone for three or four days out of our absence because she ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: --- used to keep in contact with me or my brother at all times.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And then there was -- it was just weird. Like, she never contacted us for five days and that's not like her.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right. And actually, you know, I've heard that probably a better way of describing what happens to you when this -- they disappear.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right? It's -- they just disappear and then they're found sometimes. So what year was that?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Twenty-twelve (2012).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And it was in the summer, you say?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: August 3rd.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then you said that the body was actually found in Esquimalt?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: In behind the hockey
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(Nadine Marshall)

1 rink.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, near the
3 hockey rink.

4 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: It was ---

5 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you know the
6 date for that?

7 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Pardon?

8 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you know the
9 date for that? How much time passed, approximately?

10 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I don’t know. It was
11 like, five hours because they found her. It was an
12 employee that found her. It was early in the morning when
13 they found her. They say she wasn’t there that long.

14 MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Was she in the inside
15 or the outside?

16 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She was outside by the
17 garbage dump.

18 MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Oh, yeah, a bin.

19 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And where is it
20 now?

21 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: What do you mean?

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was anyone ever
23 considered to be a suspect or charged or anything like
24 that?

couldn't deal with it any more and so my brother, my younger brother, took the next of kin. So there was my brother Steven Andrew. He's not here with us but he took over next of kin for my mom. I couldn't -- it was just too much for me.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I totally understand, yeah. So and did you say you had a sister, Wayne?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Raven (phonetic). Well, I have two brothers, Thomas and Steven.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And what's your mom's name?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Nadine.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Nadine?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Can you spell that for me?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** N-A-D-I-N-E.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Nadine, okay. Now, was her name Keitlah as well?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, she was still married. Marshall.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Marshall?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. She still had her married -- marriage name.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so who is the eldest of the three?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I am.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So there's Steven and then?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I'm the oldest. There's me, Steven, Raven, and Thomas.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So that's that family tree. Did your mom have a man in her life at the time she passed?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: He passed away three months before my mom did and they closed that file too.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Because -- yeah, that's a whole different story right there with him. His name was Cheyanne, C-H-E-Y-A-N-N-E.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And his last name?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Billy. I believe so.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was that in Esquimalt?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: He's from Powell River.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, the cops closed his file too.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So there's
Nadine; and Nadine and Cynthia, you're sisters?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: (Inaudible) Yep.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What's your relationship to her, Nadine?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: She's my sister. Nadine King was my sister.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm just trying to figure (inaudible).

MS. ROWENA COOTES: Well, we were just --

Rowena.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: How do you spell the name? R-O-W-E-N-A?

MS. ROWENA COOTES: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That was lucky.

So it sounds like Wayne has the most information, direct information, because he was actually there. And so most of what you have heard has been somebody telling you something.

MS. KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES] M'hm. Then when we saw the body she had multiple wounds. Like, she was killed.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. So was that Raven you were talking to?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: No, it was Nadine.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: No, but didn’t you say "When my niece saw the body"?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: No, like, we went to see the body.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, when you saw it? You saw the body?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah, and that ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, tell me about that.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: And we questioned the RCMP about why she had that. And then they said they didn’t have any answers for that. It's -- to me, it was questionable because she had like, a bruise on her -- like, eh, you can tell when somebody has been beaten. That's what was being covered up from, like, after we were allowed to see the body.

She had bruises on her arm. Yeah. And she -- her body was swollen. Like, to me, like I said, that was (inaudible).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: And ---
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So Wayne, Cynthia [Rowena] was just describing when they went and viewed the body, and so basically some of the marks that (inaudible).

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: Yeah, we were just telling her about how her (inaudible) choked.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: On her neck.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: On her side of her face because she either pushed on something or that's (inaudible). You can tell when somebody's been beaten and that, like what I saw.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: So -- and all of these were unanswered. I took my father down to the police station every day, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. One of those days we'd take him down there. And he would talk with somebody from victim services and I believe her name was [T.]

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: And she -- her and my dad, they're like -- I guess I have to explain about my father. My father was the president of Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council at one time.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: He was what?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: He
was the president of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council and he was very -- like, he would -- very politically ---

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Inaudible)?

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** And he had a lot of influential people.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** But when it came to my sister Nadine it seemed like the doors shut.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** I don’t know, but there’s -- he really questioned -- what was his name, Frank?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** Frank. He came over and I wasn’t too clear about why he had all of the family, like, our family, like, his -- my family, his sister's family, where we went into the Golden Dragon. He bought us dinner and that puzzled me. But he knew a lot of more information about my sister than anybody else was telling us.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Oh, Fred.
MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

Fred, yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, his name is Fred, Fred Stevensnot, S-T-E-V-E-N-S-O-T. Yeah, he was a friend with my mom. And yeah, it seemed like he knew a lot more than us.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And that's where we were mostly getting our information from, is Fred.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did the police take a statement from you?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Huh?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did the police take a statement from you?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No. Because I -- last time I -- they just asked me where I was and I said I was at my brother's and then I went back home because at the time I was with somebody and I was living with her at the time. I was living on North Park so I wasn’t living too far away from my mom.

And then I went back home. I went to Vancouver for a bit and I came back and Steven told me what happened. And the cops never asked for my information or anything. They just asked where I was.
And they said, "When your mom passed away she was found in Esquimalt." And they asked me what was -- when was the last time I seen my mom. And I told her -- told them it was on the welfare day on -- in July. And that's all they asked me.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** My dad was asking about the question of the involvement with her death, they would connect it with Cheyanne. That's what he was asking the cops. And they said they can't connect the two because -- I don’t recall what he said about that, but that was a concern for my dad. But it seemed they were unwilling to connect the two. And he had the suspicion of the two being connected.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was Cheyanne known to the police, do you think?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

No.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** He wasn’t. I've known Cheyanne for about 15 years.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. So your dad had that hypothesis. Do you have that hypothesis that they were connected?

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

No.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: How did Cheyanne die?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: My brother got home from work. I wasn’t living with them at the time. My mom and Cheyanne were living with Steven. Steven got home from work and Cheyanne was just in the living room and he was trying to revive him and wake him up. He was found -- he died in the kitchen.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was an autopsy done on him?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I wasn’t aware because I wasn’t the next of kin. So everything -- all the information about Cheyanne was given to the dad.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And my mom felt lost and she -- because they weren't giving her any information about Cheyanne. Because they said well, they're going to give it all to his dad because his dad wanted him, to bring him home and Cheyanne didn’t want to go home. He wanted to stay in Victoria because he was telling me, and my mom and Steve said he wanted to be buried in Victoria. Because to me, it seems like he knew his time was almost up when he was telling me this.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: M’hm.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was he ill?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: He seemed pretty healthy to me because ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I guess no one was telling because there's confidentiality issues because you're not the next of kin.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But did they -- anyone else try to revive him? Was he ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I was told ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: (Inaudible)?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I was told the next day.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I see.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Because they were questioning Steven and Thomas because Steven and Thomas were living together. They had a two-bedroom. My mom and Cheyanne were sleeping in the living room so Steven and Thomas were -- because they were getting questioned by the cops, what's going on with Cheyanne?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So what would you like to say to the Commissioners about this? What is it that's bugging you the most?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I just want answers.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Want answers.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: It's been five years.
Five years, every day it's the same thing, nothing.

MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH: Nothing. Me and my sister came up with a theory that she could have been working ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH: --- for the police and then she could have been undercover as the boss, but I don’t know. Maybe. Could have been. It's what one theory was.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm. Did your mom have a job?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Huh?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did she work?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No, she was on disability.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She was on disability.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She was on disability too. Her and Cheyanne were both on disability.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: The only ones that were working in that house were my brothers.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What's -- who knows Nadine's birth date?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I always celebrated it
two days, so -- but she was born on midnight on [D.O.B.]
but I always celebrated her birthday on [D.O.B.]. But my
grandpa says [D.O.B.].

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So we’ll give her
two birthdays.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And the year?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: ’64.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So tell me where
you think the police could have done better and where you
think that the police actually helped in some way.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: They could have figured
out the fingerprints on her neck.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: That bruise on the side
of her cheek [bone] was bothering me too.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Anything else?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, I'll get to the
end. But yeah, they just could have done a better on the
investigation. They didn’t even seem like they cared at
all.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What did you see
about them that made you think they didn’t care?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Just his one-word
answers from every time I tried asking him questions. "I don't know. We'll keep in contact. We'll do the best we can." That's all I've been getting from them. And I was getting more angry so I gave the -- yeah, the next of kin to Steven because every time I tried talking to them they would just get me more angry.

And Steven is more of a calm, down to earth, humble kind of brother so I just thought I might as well let him deal with it for now because I couldn't get anything out of them. So Steven took over as the next of kin.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you think Steven knows things that you don’t know?

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, he doesn’t keep anything from me.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So just know that this FILU -- I'm not sure how long it's going to be in existence. The funding came out as part of this -- in support of the Inquiry but it's -- they’re government and we're not government, okay, so it's different.

But one day when you're feeling calm -- maybe you could take up meditation for a week or something -- and then you can go to FILU and see if they can help you get some of these documents.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is there WiFi here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) WiFi?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Just so we could look it up, FILU.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Don’t know.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Unlike the police, they're just sitting waiting for people like you to come in and ask for help. It would be interesting to look at the coroner's report. They're fairly easy to get access to. But if it's five years and if it's an RCMP -- RCMP say they don’t ever close a file. So it's not closed.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: But we were told that --

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: My grandfather told us too that the case is closed.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah. Closed, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:

What was the acronym?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm sorry?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:

What's the acronym?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's Family Information Liaison Unit. It's part of victim services.
It's -- most of the ---

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The subject

(inaudible).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's -- the funding

has usually gone to victim services for kind of an

(inaudible).

I know that we don't interface. Sadly, for

others, you know, many, many people have -- I guess the

thing is that the families -- although this is -- I'm not

saying that this is right or wrong. But families just

learn that they just have to keep phoning and keep -- have

to be treated like that.

And the only thing is, I guess, that there's

kind of a funny movie actually with Shirley MacLaine and

her son is in jail. And she gets treated harshly every

time so she decides to bring them cookies. So (inaudible)

[by the end] in the movie that they're treating her --

like, they're opening doors for her and things.

So I think that if you are going to -- you

know, there's just a higher likelihood that you're going to

get some information if you keep in contact with them and

you try to figure out a way to endear yourself to them

which probably, for you, feels like holding your nose and

taking something but ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: I
think my father had it right, you know. He'd go down there
and my brother said to him, "Why do you keep going down?
They're just going to tell you nothing."

And he'd say, "You have to have patience."

He'd tell that to his brother. And -- but my dad was, you
know, he was persistent. You know, he didn't let anybody --

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Dissuade.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: --
- take him down and just go down there and just make your
presence known. He said, "Just make your presence known."
He said, "They know when they see me coming." And some of
the officers will turn the other way because they know my
father.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:
Just that ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's kind of like
if it's this job to do and this job to do and this job to
do.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:
Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: If your father's
file was this, this is the one they'd go to ---
Okay.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- because he's been down there every day and he’s persistent.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

(Inaudible) to me.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I just think it works that way.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah, if it happened to my son too I probably would be down there too ---

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** --- all the time bugging them. "What's going on? What's going on?" That's how he was. It was his daughter. It's like, no answers. Pretty sad ---

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** --- in how people are supposed to be moving forward with that. It's not happening.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, hopefully these recommendations will go somewhere.

**MS. ROWENA-COOKES [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** I found some information on ---

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, thank you.

**MS. ROWENA-COOKES [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** -- to help. And they can research available information
and connect with relevant agencies such as the police, coroner and others. They can determine if you can access information and if not, who in your family can. And you can request official information; arrange meetings between families and agencies for information sharing; support and accompany families during meetings with agencies; assist with explanations when no records or information are available; provide information, assistance, advocacy, and accompaniment for families to access services and resources.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is there a phone number?

MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: There's a lot more information in there.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Well, would that kind of information would be given out in the (inaudible)?

MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: No, see, I just Googled it and I pulled up that information. And I certainly can print out this information as well.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Great idea.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: That would be great.

MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: That would be helpful.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So was there anything going in your mom's life that made her more vulnerable to this?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I think the loss of Cheyanne.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: The loss of Cheyanne, okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: That's -- they had been together for 15, almost 20 years.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, wow.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And she passed away not about three months after -- or Cheyanne passed away three months before my mom.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Three to four months.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Passed in April, I think?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Huh?

MS. CYNTHIA-KEITLAH [ROWENA COOTES]: Was it in April?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She was going through a tough time there so she stayed. She moved in with Steven and Thomas.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She wanted to move in

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with me but I had three or four kids of my own in the house, so I had a houseful already.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. You can’t always do that.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Steven and Thomas were living down the road from me so they just lived up about two blocks away from me.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: So my mom was always in contact with her boys. So there was times when she said she felt lost and I said, "Well, you know where I am. You know, you can always come up, come and see me." And she did.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: There were times when we just sat in my backyard and just talked. She always felt better after that.

And then I heard she was moving somewhere. She had a place because she didn’t want to stay at this homeless shelter called "Our Place" in Victoria.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She didn’t want to be there any more because she said it felt like jail because there was -- nobody was allowed in her room, nobody's allowed to go upstairs and visit. It was exactly like jail
at Our Place. Same rules and everything.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: All right.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: So she was quite
depressed after staying over there so that's the reason why
she moved in with Steven.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so she had
depression too happening?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Well, for a bit until
she moved in with Steven and Thomas.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She felt better living
with her boys because when she was living at Our Place for
about a month she felt depressed and alone and lost. And I
told her, I said, "Well, just move in with Thomas and with
Steven. They got a big living room. They got a big
apartment." So they did. Because they had a pretty big
two-bedroom apartment so ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Hope they had a
good couch from the daytime.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Well, it was a -- yeah,
it was a big couch and hide-a-bed and everything.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh. Anything else
that you think contributed to her vulnerability?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, how large a
woman was she? Like, what did she look like? Like this skinny person here?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: She was really skinny, eh?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah. She was like, 5'2, 105, something like that.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, wow.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She was small.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Not an extreme fighter, obviously.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Oh, she was a fighter.

MS. CYNTHIA-KEITLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: That's my sister there. She broke it (inaudible).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, sorry. I just think she (inaudible) later in the family?

MS. ROWENA COOTES: Yeah. She broke her arm and she got sassy with her and ---

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: Sassy? She's just mean.

MS. ROWENA COOTES: Just being her typical beautiful self and she hit me with her cast.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And she -- and sorry, you said she was on a disability too?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, she was on disability too.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so that meant
that she probably didn’t have a lot of money?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No, she only got a
paycheque once a month.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. What was the
disability about?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I'm not quite too sure.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was it -- do you
think it was an accident or was it something ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Well, she broke her
ankle and she wasn’t able to work.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I see.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: But she ended up with
two plates in her ankles.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, wow. Did she
have trouble walking?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh my goodness.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I was her chauffeur for
about three years, driving her around, dropping her off at
bingo sometimes, picking up her bingo cards and dabbers,
her extra cards.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah. Thank you.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah. Well, as long as
I got the car after.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, we also have to have these relationships.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: But yeah, I was just her chauffeur for the longest time when she broke her ankle and that's how she ended up on disability. She wasn’t able to work any more.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Right.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, so there was a lot happening to make her vulnerable except for the fact she had you who had her back.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm sure she really loved and appreciated it. Was she connecting to her community and her home?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: We were hardly ever too connected to our home. We were mostly -- most of our lives were spent in Victoria. The only time we ever did go back home to Ahousaht is for a potlach or a funeral. Other than that, we never went back. And that's how we were here for Port Alberni too. We hardly had came back.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: We had some family members living in Victoria but we stayed the longest. Out
of all my family, we stayed the longest.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did you?

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: We've been there the longest. You guys (inaudible).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so Matthew, what's your relationship with Nadine?

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: She's my auntie. And Cynthia is my mother.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm. Okay, now it all makes sense. I just feel like a jigsaw puzzle got its final piece. Yeah, it’s bad enough when someone passes. I had a friend of mine that died and I went to his funeral on the weekend. So I was kind of mad at cancer.

But when you think of another living being actually taking someone's life, it's a terrible waste. And you don’t have any idea who that might be, would you? There's the guy in the wheelchair.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, (inaudible).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: He disappeared.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, I haven't seen him for about three, four years. He had ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Really?

MR. WAYNE KIEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: The one that we met him the day we went over?
MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, when all of us, we were there.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: The one with no legs ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: --- in a wheelchair.

Yeah, I haven't seen him for about three, four years.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Wow.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Raven hasn't seen him because she's been staying at our place too.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Her and Bob.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: But that's when your mom was hanging around with Ray?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No, that's the one Raven was with.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Oh, yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: With -- there's Fred.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Oh, that's right.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Fred's was the guy in the wheelchair?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No, Fred was just a friend of the family with my mom. He was good friends with her ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh.
MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: --- while they were both living here in Port Alberni, I guess.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is that the one who knew her well?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Huh?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: (Inaudible) the other one, Fred Stevensnot.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Stevensnot there, I guess, yeah. He was just a good friend with my mom.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I guess they were friends while they were both living here in Port Alberni. I barely remember him.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: But I haven't really talked to him since my grandfather passed away. That was the last time I seen him.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm. Now, is that your dad that passed away?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Sounds like a special guy.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Just in your belief system, where do you think people go when they die?
MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I think -- me personally, I don’t believe in God or the devil. It's the way I was just wired, I guess, throughout my life. I tried to even go to church and believe that there is a God and Creator but I don't think there is.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But what if she just -- you know, they had -- be just basically transformed?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Reincarnation?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: No, just transformed.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah. I’m a very scientific guy. So if I don’t see it I don’t believe in it.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: That’s just how I am. That’s the way I've always been thinking my whole life. And Mom tried to rewire me on God and the Creator and everything and ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Really?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: --- it's just not me.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, people have got so many different ideas.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: How about your...
MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I believe in my culture.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: My mom made sure -- my mom, my grandfather, and they always made sure to believe in my culture.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: I see.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah. But I think it was living, living in the city too long. I don't have time to do my culture thing because I work. I mean, I line cook, so I work throughout the nights.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I work late hours so I never had time to go to a culture night in Victoria where -- I think it's at the Fernwood Centre in Victoria.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And I don't -- I can't go there. I'm always at work.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And there was times when I want to go to the travel journeys but I can't because travel journeys don't pay for my rent.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I want to go to powwows but I can't because of my work.
ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M’hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Just a lot of things I missed out in life because of I’m more dedicated to my work. But when I -- as I was growing up my mom made sure that we went to every powwow she was in, all our culture, and I still believe in our cultures.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M’hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: But I just lost touch.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Just had time for (inaudible) too.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Because ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Huh?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: He said (inaudible).

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I (inaudible).

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: (Inaudible) too.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: (Inaudible) me (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: (Inaudible) his culture.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: (Inaudible) I like my (inaudible).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I think Gertrude asked.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: (Inaudible) up.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. So this is
moose hide, right? That's that ---

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:

It's about violence, isn't it?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MR. WAYNE KEITLAH]:

Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, it's the men.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, (inaudible) style.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I think it was a man and his daughter who started it. I'm not sure where.

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: That guy was talking about they started with moose hide?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:

It was really started right here.

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: It was one -- yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, I see.

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, so this is the moose hide?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: This is mine.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: This is yours?

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: No, that's his. I'm wearing one.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Now, did Wayne give
that to you?

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: No?

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: No, they were handed out in the tent.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, were they? Oh, okay. I -- my daughter knows about it and so she gave me a pile of them to give out and that's why I know about it.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]: It's a good program.

MR. MATTHEW TITIAN [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]: You know, and (inaudible).

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: I heard from my mom's spiritual teacher, you know, if you live in the city and you think you don’t have your culture ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: --- then you have parks around you and you have trees. They saw you walk in that forest where the trees grow wherever you are, and that's like going into a church ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: All right.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: --- because you have all of your healing in there and then you have all the different medicinal medicines and like, the cedar trees. When you walk by the trees, the trees just brush you and
help to heal. And whatever you're carrying inside it helps you feel better.

So you don’t really have to go church or you don’t have to, you know, go to a powwow or go to the culture centre. You can walk through the park and your soul is there.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** For me, I like to go to the ocean.

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, water is healing.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Because my mom, she loved the water and ---

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M’hm.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- that's where I think we always just sat and talked.

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M’hm.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And I live maybe 10 minutes away from Macaulay Point and I just go to Macaulay Point beach and just sit there because it's open water. I can see right to Port Angeles. I can see that way and it's just like 18 kilometres of open water.

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M’hm.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And I just sit there and relax ---

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M’hm. Yeah.
MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: --- because that's my way of (inaudible).

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: That's great. You already -- you got your teachings from your mom and you carry them. Great. And they always say water is so powerful.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, I go there maybe once a week to go to Macaulay Point.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: So.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Yeah. And this will help you heal more.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, it does. It takes a lot of stress and anger away from me because I have a lot of built-up anger and ---

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: --- every year around August, every year around August, I drink a lot. And I'm not going to lie about that. And I said, "Yeah, I've just been heavily drinking," and it helps me forget the pain that I go through on a daily basis in August and how I felt in 2012.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.
MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I try to talk to my brother but my brother is hardly ever around. Neither is my other brother. My sister, she's like -- she lives a fast life so I can't keep up with her. So it's just me and myself and a couple of friends of mine. But my friends are there to help me out. But also they're there to help me, yeah.

I just know there's more to life than alcohol.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm. And that's good you know that.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Huh?

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: That's good you know that.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And that's all I've been running to, is alcohol lately. I don't -- yeah, just I sober up and then the pain is still there and I just feel just twice as shitty.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Yeah. This alcohol just covers it up and then you sober up and it's still there.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Yeah. But going to the water, it's a good thing.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, it sounds like it.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Going to the water might be the answer.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: The thing is, for me, I go to Macaulay Point and I have to walk past the liquor store so I always go to the liquor store when I go up to Macaulay too.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Like, in Esquimalt, there's nothing but liquor stores.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Seems like it's like, every kilometre there's a liquor store in Esquimalt. There's one there right on McConnor (phonetic) Way. There's one behind my house and then there's nothing on McConnor Way. There's like, four along Esquimalt Road.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And Oak Bay is not like that anywhere so I don't know. I'm not looking for an excuse. I have responsibilities for my own decisions. Every man is responsible for their own actions. It's just an easy way for me to deal with my pain.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: I think, you know, you
going down to the water and sitting there and feeling the healing from the water ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: --- it's going to come to the point where you don't want or need your alcohol to help you with the pain that you're carrying because, you know, you're slowly working that anger and that pain that you have about your mom and losing her.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: And she's going to help you, you know. She's with you every step of the way as you walk towards that water and she sits with you.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: She's going to help you heal and you know ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: It's hard.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: --- stop drinking because that's what she wants for you.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, that's what I need to do with my life.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: It's just, I'm just on a downward spiral and it seems like I'm too far down already in alcohol already. Like, I need a six pack a day just to get me by, to get rid of the edge.
ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: This is my first time not drinking in two days.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Good for you.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I was usually drinking every day so ---

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: --- it's my first time in a long time since I haven't had a drink this long.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: M'hm.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And I'm not really craving it when I'm here for some reason. Just maybe it's I'm with family and it helps me. Because, like I said, I have no family in Victoria. I have friends but not my family.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: So and I -- since I've been here I haven't been craving it.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: It's a start for you.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: It's in you now, where you can get that support now from your family. They're helping you.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That's kind of a
formula, actually. The formula is that you get to know yourself well enough when an alarm goes off which is like, "I need a six pack."

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then you've found peace enough at the water that you've got three or four seconds to make a decision. And your decision is? And then the next part is you've got a bridge to take you into a self that doesn’t want to drink alcohol.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So you got your alarm, you got the bridge, and then the calm on the water; actually what that does is it gives you that three or four seconds so you can actually make a decision rather than just acting like the crazy rabbit that's running across the road ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- like a wild monkey ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- or a wild buffalo. And day by day, you could do that. Even if you spent then one minute every day you would move towards it --

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- by self-regulating your mind when you're down by the water.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that's what millions of people do around the world to help them with their suffering. And the more you do it the more you learn about who you are. And you can sit still ---

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- and you can feel good about being with yourself. And the anger, you feel anger, but you know what? You become anger.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, I've noticed that. And now it's ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You’ve got it. And you know, think about it in terms of wow, I'm so grateful that I had this mom and she taught me so much. And I'm going to use it to be the son that she wants me to be.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ROWENA COOTES]: You were asking a question about the Inquiry.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ROWENA COOTES]: And I have a question about it. It crossed my mind a few times and I didn’t know. The way I was looking at it is my sister was Indigenous; my sister was addicted.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She was?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ROWENA COOTES]:
Starting when she was just like when he described himself about having to have a drink. That's how she was. And to me, it kind of -- the way I was thinking, the way the RCMP handled it is that because of who she -- what she did and how she lived is at the circumstances of why this wasn't really investigated or there were a lot of questions that I had about -- because when my dad -- my dad was asking about that, they would shrug him off about -- no, that's not, you know, the case.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, so that's an example of ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ROWENA COOTES]: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- systemic violence.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's when a bias is shown and decisions are made based on stereotype and bias.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ROWENA COOTES]: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH [ROWENA COOTES]: Because that is my question.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I think the one thing that's really important is for us to appreciate that
it's really difficult to stop people from killing other people.

And so we have to do it by making sure there's not systemic violence in our system, that we have to rely on the protectors. We have to rely on observing that they're a risk and doing something about it.

And because -- you know, like, Canada is one country but many countries don’t have a really good track record when it comes down to stopping serial killers, for example.

**MS. CYNTHIA KIETLAH [ROWENA COOTES]:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So that's, I think, really why the Terms of Reference are framed the way they are. It's not like, you know, identify the people who are doing the killing and stop them. It's more about what is contributing to the vulnerability of Aboriginal women? And yes, it's clear, one thing that is contributing to the vulnerability of Indigenous women is the fact that -- you know, that four minutes or four seconds I talked about?

**MS. CYNTHIA KIETLAH [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That four seconds isn't there. And it's just thinking okay, she's a drunk or she's a -- you know, drawing conclusions and acting on those. And it creates a bit of a chain because what
happens is that if an officer, or a group of officers, a system, you know, a detachment of officers, they don't act hastily and with compassion and love when any human being is found dead.

And they don’t go to the effort, which is their job, to treat that body with respect and then to treat the family members with respect. And even if they can't give information at least explain why they can't give information. "I can give you this but I can't give you that. But I will be able to give you that later when I know this."

And so what happens is that not only does it contribute to the crimes not being solved so that people aren't held accountable, but it also contributes to other members of society thinking that that human being is of less value, right? We know that. We see that.

And I think that's why it's so magnificent when we come to a setting like this where effort is being put into ceremony and just like -- I can't remember the name of the fellow who spoke first and he has welcomed everybody there. And he said that, you know, "We're worth it, guys, but we have got to change this."

And I work for the Inquiry and I trust that it's going to get better. I believe that even if it's -- even when you've had a day where things just seem so gray
and then the light comes in, and I see it in people's faces just from these -- as members of the Inquiry.

We sit down and talk to people and they walk out with kind of a sense of you know what? Like, I'm here on earth for a purpose and I'm going to do my best to fulfill it. And I'm not going to consume the words of people who are too afraid of themselves and feel so badly about themselves that they have to bully me.

The worst thing I can do is adopt the words of some person who doesn’t have the capacity to feel compassion for other people around them.

MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH: Have you lost someone before?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm sorry?

MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH: Have you lost someone?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Have I lost somebody? I've never lost -- like, my mother did disappear for five years but the only people I've lost are my dad with cancer and this in the sixties. And but never, never, has anyone -- have I been in the situation that you're in.

MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: My sister is still alive.

MS. CYNTIA KEITLAH: Do you think if we hired people that were in our position they would help
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do I think what?

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Do you think people that have lost somebody would help more with our cases?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so where do we get compassion from? I guess that's what -- that's the question I lead to.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Exactly. Ask her.
She knows who. I don't know where you get it from. I asked them to help me before and then ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, there is science on it.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: I know. I don't know where to go.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so you know, I don't -- this isn't about me at all but ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Well, it's about -- could be about you, it could be about the whole you with the situation about having compassion for a person like us that we haven't been in a position before but we still want help. Maybe that's what's getting him angry.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So I was a prosecutor for 33 years.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And I -- when I
said the business about you don’t feel anger; you are
anger, that -- I got to a position like that. And the way
that I got out of it, I think that you have to do a number
of things. Like, there's the water, there's the
identifying people who are actually helping you.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Well, I do have a friend
that's been in the same situation as me. And it's probably
the reason why we're good friends because she lost her dad
too. And she's in the same situation as me. So that's
where I get my compassion, I guess, because she was in the
same situation as me.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And we both lost our
parents the same way because she lost her dad too and I
lost my mom the same way she lost her dad. Because me and
her, we were -- we weren't friends at first. We were
dating and then started to get to know each other and
started talking about each other's parents and then we
realized we have a lot of things in common.

That's where I get it. She knows how to
calm me down. She's the only one that -- in Victoria that
can calm me down. She is really good that way.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That's interesting.
You should observe what she does and see if you could do it
yourself.
MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But anyway, so I started meditating. So I meditate 40 minutes a day and I also do yoga. And that the science is that by -- and I believe that the Indigenous ceremonies do the same thing --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- which is that they -- it stimulates -- there's certain exercises that yoga and meditation that stimulate parts of the brain that it actually opens a person up to be more compassionate. So they -- not -- it doesn’t mean that everyone chooses to be more compassionate but it changes the brain to be more compassionate.

And that's yoga and there's other -- I'm sure if I researched this -- because I haven't yet -- but I am, for the purpose of the Inquiry, that it's like yoga. People did it for centuries and then the scientists came along and they said, "Hey geeze, it works," you know, like, "because this is what's going on in the brain."

So I believe that they get that with some of the Indigenous ceremonies that have been practised for -- since the beginning.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: It does tell them too. It does that.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: It's -- I've talked to -- God knows, you know, but telling that I have to be patient enough for the answer, and patient enough to go and talk to people, trying to get answers, you know, and being very -- just doing it on time every day, every week, every month, every year. And you just -- you keep going on like, you with your yoga and whatever. It's kind of like okay, well, maybe today is the day. Today is going to be the day that I find out what happened. And that's kind of a hope. It's kind of like your ocean.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Is that what you're trying to say?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: No, I don't think you would like what I'm trying to say, and it's not like this is to say it. But it's got more to do with just understanding than like, sometimes we just don't get the answers.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And finding peace in that.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Just so that even that's better than nothing.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.
MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: It's better than nothing if they just can admit it, you know?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: But yeah, we're doing our best and there's still nothing. There's nothing I can tell you. It's got to be -- it was more accepting (inaudible) [than what you just said,] better than nothing. Nothing is nothing, but when you say, "There is nothing," that's kind of like ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: There is a curiosity. Like, and you're having a wonderful conversation, I think. I do appreciate it. But imagine if you talked to the police like that. Like, I mean, could you ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: No, there would be nothing. Like he said, there's nothing.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. But at least if you just -- for example, I have heard that there is a new program now where they're teaching the police and paramedics, and everybody, in what they call psychological first aid because they're finding that even though a firefighter rescues somebody from the third floor of a building that if they are too rough for them and they ignored their cat or they're disrespectful or called somebody fat or something, it doesn’t matter that they
saved their life. He was a jerk and that's their memory.

So they're teaching those people to
understand the human factor. And the human factor is,
like, if you're rescuing someone from a fire, if you're
rescuing them you might as well remind them of how nice
life can be and say, "Is there anything I can do? Can I
call somebody?" or you know, say something kind ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- because that's
what people need. And so they teach -- the same with,
"What did he look like?" you know when you are just been
robbed and they want to chase after the robber and you go,
"Wait a minute, I've lost my phone," you know.

And so it would be nice if they'd say,
"Well, do you want to -- you can use mine. Do you want to
call somebody to help you out?" You know what I mean?
Like -- so that's what they're actually training people to
do.

So what if when you go in and you speak to
somebody like that, when you engage in a conversation with
them, would they start to understand who you are and they
see you for who you are, kind of like what you're doing
with me here.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That's what they
need to be trained to do, is talk to people, not be afraid
of them.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Not be, you know, backing away, going into the next room because ---

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Scared to.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- the same person that has been coming once a week for the last five years is here again.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Or you're the person that likes to drink a lot. That's all I see. And I can't give you more information than that.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Interesting.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Like, you know what? We actually gave you some hope, didn't we, I think? You could try it.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And you know what? If it doesn't work you can phone me up and tell me to fuck off. Like, I'm just trying my best and I'll try something else.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: You hear us and then we hear you saying, yeah, we did it; we did what you said
and now the rest is up to you. Keep calling and hopefully there's something we can -- better.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, I only have a situation where my mother disappeared for five years. I went to the police and you know, like, the dental records and she didn’t have any because she doesn’t have teeth. You know, it's like, so I've gone through this stuff and thankfully she showed up again.

So it's been -- it's interesting when somebody disappears for five years because you don’t know if they're alive or dead or what.

There's a lot of people who have missing family members and they have no idea where they are.

So I don't know and it's not for me to tell people because we're all so different too in how we deal with the situations.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yes, but isn't that is what this is about though?

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The Inquiry?

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Thank you.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** If I were -- you know, I've been a lawyer for a long time, right, so I'm used to giving people advice. I've given many, many people
advice over the years. But in this job it's not my job to
give you advice. It's my job to listen to you and to -- I
mean, except for the fact then there's a few things I know
and so I pass on a name.

If I were in a different capacity, like, if
I worked a FILU I would help you. I would go looking for
things and -- but what my job is is to hear you or
encourage you to provide information that can go to the
Commissioners. And it's more like -- it's this.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:    Hope.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's hope. It is.

It's like if you think about your relationship with time
and you think about what was going on, like, 3,000 years
ago and then you start to think about well, what's going to
go on 3,000 years from now? I mean, what can I do today to
make it go a certain way? That's what I'm working with
now.

We're working with a way of actually
figuring out what human beings are about in Canada that
they want to actually kill the number of Indigenous women
that they do. But it's not only Indigenous women, it's
Indigenous men that are the marginalized folks. You know,
domestic violence is a terrible problem all over the world.

MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:    M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Many countries,
they call it "femicide"; it’s not only in Canada where
women are being killed.

So it's such a complex problem that it's
not going to be solved with one report or it's going to
take generations. And -- but we need to make some wise
decisions about where to start.

**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I think we all
kind of know where to start but it's like, we all know we
don’t want to speed but we speed. We all know we don’t
want to smoke cigarettes but we smoke cigarettes. We all
know that we don’t want to be mean to our mothers. You
know, we're mean to our mothers. Like, so it's got
something to do with being in a relationship with yourself
where you actually bring out the authentic person even
though it hurts. It's scary. It feels like things will be
taken away from you.

It's like listening. Most people can't
listen because they're surrendering themselves and they
feel threatened that they’ll lose. That's what the police
are doing.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

**MS. ROWENA GOOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**

This is going way back but we got to stay here where we are
right now because that's what it's dealing with. Complex.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
Back then, right now here today what have we learned if you're to get through this part? All complex.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Wayne's got a great idea about water.

MS. ROWENA COOTES: There's a really complex state at -- that I remembering seeing about a public situation. It's (inaudible) [we’re dealing] with society that has -- I didn’t know for a long time you feel that racism has been a part of (inaudible) [residential school]. So going through the residential school, all these things that are being passed down from residential school are learned from your parents and passed down to my children. And it's that impact of this whole Inquiry. It's the division of families and siblings, my siblings. It's that relationship that that's -- it's not there. There’s a loss of connection.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. ROWENA COOTES: And for me my father was the connection he was able to get people together. He was able to be spiritual, cultural, aspect of the whole family and that was a big loss when we lost our father.

And because there's none of that being a part of the missing piece, the missing piece of being what
-- our cultural pieces and how we (inaudible) [were raised] because that was part of who my father was. It's part of (inaudible) [his mother], of how he was raised by (inaudible). And that's -- because I can see -- really see a division in a lot of family. Well, you can feel it when like, I walk into that room and just like, wow. And like, just ---

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And do you think that if your dad could have lived for 200 years that he always would have been able to have that influence or do you think things are changing fundamentally there are so many challenges that we have to maintain those relationships?

**MS. ROWENA COOTES:** To me, I think there's a lot of challenges that are being put on the family ---

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

**MS. ROWENA COOTES:** --- because of how I was raised and because of how I see things. And our cultural differences are so vast and really so -- like, we have little ones on the dance floor and you know, sitting there talking to my auntie and she says, "Yeah, there’s a lot of little ones who are not supposed to be on the dance floor (inaudible) many many years ago."

But what she was talking about is it's because we’ve all run from that time because it's nice to
say we're always dancing. But then again, you're sitting there looking at what my parents grew up with. Because as children we weren't allowed to go to watch the practices or to be a part at that time. There’s been a lot of changes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. ROWENA COOTES: And that I recall not to be discussed, not to be talked about. And a lot of that is (inaudible) a part of me so it (inaudible) [it’s a missing factor of] why it's done this way. So yeah. I think he'd find a way.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm sorry?

MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: I think he'd find a way. He always did.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: He'd always find a way to get the people together, get it going, and seeing it through. He was that kind of guy but like you said, there is challenges along the way.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So you guys have got 50 percent of his DNA, you know?

MS. ROWENA COOTES: M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And you've just got to wire (inaudible) focus and it's a choice, eh? I mean, I can tell. I'm influenced by you just with your presence. I can feel the strength.
MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
That's a good compliment. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: My dad was like that too.

MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And if he (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
M'hm. We're just about wrapped up, eh?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. I can imagine you guys just sitting around (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You know, your dad and your granddad and just analyzing it, kind of like how people who are ambitious, they read books about people who have the key to what they want to do. And then make kind of a recipe that ---

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:
M'hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so think about how you can do that.

Oh, you're really beautiful, and I'm so sorry that this happened to your mom. And I'm so sorry
that -- for every time that some idiot treats you in a way you shouldn’t be treated.

And the thing is that -- I know there’s another really famous saying that I read when I was much younger and I just can't remember the exact quote but it says something like, you know, "Our duty to ourselves at first is just not to take on what it is that people are saying about us." It's like a fart. Like if you could just sort of seeing it like a fart that let it move to the air. Like it just ---

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: M’hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Think about that --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- when someone says something stupid.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: It's my time.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But don’t tell them.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]: I think (inaudible).

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's like, you know, meditation teaches that too, is that there's a lot of
delusions in your brain. Like, and you get to a point where you learn. You go, "Oh, there you go again," you know? Like, you got to -- we've got to realize that our brain farts sometimes and it gives us these stupid ideas that we just should not attach to as if it's someone actually giving us something tangible.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Takes us down the wrong road.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
M'hm.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
You know (inaudible) and oh God, I made that turn. And I turned.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So where do you guys get your beautiful feathers?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:
My husband, he just loves looking on the beach all the time and he finds them every time, eh. And he just is a man that just -- and I go, I find nothing but rocks perhaps. But not feathers. So he's the one that gets the -- would you like one?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: He's gifted.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:

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Yeah. He's gifted to find them.

    MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh my goodness.

Thank you so much.

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

Elder.

    MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: (Inaudible) wow.

Thank you.

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]: (Inaudible) nice.

    ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Thank you. Such an honour to be given one.

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because (inaudible).

    MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That's just so amazing.

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry, I made (inaudible).

    MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Can I have your shirt too?

    ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Before everyone leaves I want to thank the family for allowing me to sit in with you. This as very (inaudible) [touching story, it’s umm]. And I hurt. I feel your pain.

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: M'hm.

    ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: And I'm honoured to be able to come in here and be of any help that I can. And
thank you for allowing me to be here.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you.

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** May I also thank you too because when you're talking about your loved one that has left this earth it's a real spiritual journey that you're on when you're talking, you know, about them. And you know, they're here.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** You know, they're here with us and you know, they're listening to you and how we talk about them and we talk in such a respectful, loving, caring manner. That's (inaudible) [healing] for you all to share that story. And [I know how hard that must be for you. I lost a loved one to] that must be brave (inaudible) her murder. And I really commend you for sharing your story. You know, I hope that you continue to (inaudible) and you know, continue your journey.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Yeah. Because you know how it makes you feel to continue your journey.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. No, I was -- it's just a matter of will. I'm not going to go (inaudible) [somewhere].

**ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm. It will come.

**MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But like I said, I don’t
crave it when I'm here.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: And you're doing well.

MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah. Thank you. I guess.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

Thank you. I felt your presence.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

Somebody did.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, it was here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

Cares anyway.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: I just want to share something about (inaudible) [my] sister. She was in a (inaudible) [she needed a rock or a crystal] or something and she was sitting in (inaudible) that? I just did not say that. (Inaudible) memory. It's just -- the place was given to me from her daughter and she said, "You (inaudible) [We've got a lot of nuts in our family]."

She said, "I just want you to remember me as being one of those nuts."

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aw, that's sweet.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:

You're so sweet.

ELDER GERTIE PIERRE: Nice way to end everything by giving us a laugh.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, okay. Thank you.

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

Karen Noganosh

October 2, 2017