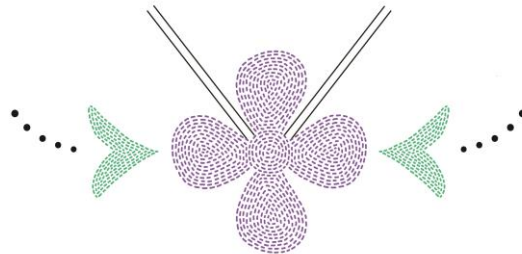


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

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



PUBLIC

Thursday September 14, 2017

**Statement - Volume 180
Catherine Mark & Thomas Sam
In relation to Annabelle Mark-Ambrose**

**Statement gathered by Wendy van Tongeren,
Commission Counsel**

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

II

NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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1 Tseshaht First Nation / Port Alberni, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, September 14, 2017

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Today is September
4 14th. Can you believe that? We're almost half way through
5 September.

6 And so it's Wendy van Tongeren and I'm here
7 as part of the Port Alberni interview process. And the
8 time now is about 19 minutes after 9:00 in the morning and
9 we're about to commence an interview.

10 And so I'm going to pass this recorder
11 around and if everyone could just say their names. So it
12 will just be like this: "My name is Wendy van Tongeren and
13 I spell my name W-E-N-D-Y, V-A-N, T-O-N-G-E-R-E-N and I'm a
14 lawyer with the legal unit with the National Inquiry."

15 So you need to do something like that so
16 that I know who you are as well.

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** My name is Catherine
18 Mark, C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E, M-A-R-K.

19 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** My name is Thomas Sam. T-
20 H-O-M-A-S, S-A-M.

21 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** My name is Gertie
22 Pierre and I'm an elder working for the Inquiry for support
23 for the family.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** How did you spell
25 your last name?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M-A-R-K.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M-A-R-T?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** K.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The way they
5 proceeded here -- poor Thomas, all I can see is his
6 baseball hat. Maybe that's what he wanted. So either
7 Thomas you can sit somewhere else, or Catherine, if you
8 could sit back a little bit. But if that doesn't work for
9 you just find another seat to sit.

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Wow, now I can see
12 the tattoo of the band; we've got Thomas in the picture.

13 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Right.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Now the other thing
15 is that this is -- right now this is private because
16 there's only four of us in this room. So that's fine
17 because no one else is going to join us that you don't want
18 to be here. But the thing is that this goes to the
19 Commissioners. And there's some people who actually are
20 engaging in the statement taking process with us but they
21 still -- I think everybody wants it to go to the
22 Commissioners. But there's still some people who still
23 want it to be public.

24 So -- and it would be public, for example,
25 if the transcript was made available for people, for

1 example, to read what transpired. So is it your preference
2 that it be public or would you prefer that your name, for
3 example, wasn't used or that people didn't see the
4 transcript or -- like, what is your thought?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I'm comfortable with it
6 being public.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

8 And do you feel the same way, Thomas?

9 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Yeah.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

11 Okay, great. Thank you.

12 Now, I'm just going to give you some ideas
13 about -- you're going to start talking and I'm not going to
14 interrupt you. But there's a -- I'll give you a bit of a
15 framework so that you've got some ideas about what would be
16 more helpful to Gertrude and myself and the Commissioners.

17 So number one, I don't know your family; I
18 don't have any background information so it is helpful to
19 give a family tree, provide a family tree. So what that
20 means is just whoever it be the person is that you are
21 going to be speaking of, we appreciate, in context, who
22 they are to you. If it's, you know, a relative -- I
23 anticipate it is a relative.

24 And one thing that we did yesterday that
25 worked is that we actually made a family tree up on the

1 board so that as we spoke we could sort of see the dates of
2 things and who was around at a given time. And sometimes
3 there's cousins, so we do a family tree for you, with your
4 parents and your siblings and then if it was an auntie or
5 something or a cousin then we would do a little family tree
6 that shows the connection.

7 And then what I do is I make notes of that
8 and I take a picture of it so that, so that we can put it
9 into a typed form.

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Does that include like,
11 the deceased brothers, or sisters?

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, yeah. And
13 you just need to give their name and the date that they
14 were born. Like, the year they were born if you know it,
15 right?

16 So that's one thing.

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Okay.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The other thing is
19 for names -- you know, we all have this experience, I
20 think, where we hear somebody's name and we don't quite get
21 it. So if you are going to use somebody's name, it would
22 be good if you slowed down a little bit and just spelled
23 their name.

24 And same if you're talking about places.
25 We're not always familiar with all the places of which you

1 speak, so if you could just spell the name and we could
2 look it up or you could describe to us where that's
3 located. I'm just speaking generally; you know, it would
4 sort of be like, "Well I was in Nanaimo N-A-N-A-I-M-O which
5 is on the island here and it's -- that's where the ferry
6 goes."

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** So this person that I'm
8 going to be talking about, the woman that's deceased, and I
9 do the family trees, like, just for my parents and me and
10 my siblings and kids, but, or ---

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

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** --- do you want me to
13 do, to try and do the whole family tree?

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No.

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Okay, it would be
16 almost up to 1000.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No, no, I said that
18 before that you would laugh at me, "You're kidding, right?"
19 and we're going to set the whole day on one family trees?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** The whole day on one.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's a really
22 good point, Catherine. If you're going to do a family tree
23 we'll all do it together. All of us will help work on it.
24 And we'll take a minimalist, like a minimum approach.
25 Like, the smaller we can keep it the better. Just the ones

1 that are absolutely relevant.

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, m'hm.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I'll show you
4 how we've done that in the past. We've just sort of put a
5 place for people but we just fill in -- like, if there's 16
6 children or something you just -- and you're going to talk
7 about three of them you just kind of put the three of them
8 on the tree. But you'd still indicate that there's 16
9 children, for example.

10 And so the other thing that is really
11 helpful to us, because we attempt to get records from
12 people, like police and hospitals and coroners, and that
13 type of thing to explain certain things. And so dates are
14 important too. So if you don't know a date you just tell
15 us you don't know it.

16 And sometimes there's ways of figuring out
17 dates. Like, you probably relate to this where you'd say,
18 "I don't remember the date but I remember that my son was
19 three." And then we just sort of do the math. "Well, when
20 was your son three?" And then we can figure out a date.
21 Alright? Like, "I remember it was my father's birthday and
22 he was turning 70," or something. So we can figure that
23 out.

24 So eventually there will be questions that I
25 have for you, but I'm going to try my best not to interrupt

1 you. Because I believe that when I interrupt you I
2 actually interfere with your train of thought. And I just
3 want you to be left to tell us what you think is important.

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And eventually I
6 will ask questions that are kind of clarifying things and
7 elaborating on things. And specifically you'll hear
8 questions from me about the systemic violence; in other
9 words, what was going on in the life of these individuals
10 that contributed to vulnerability or actually contributed
11 to it -- you can contribute to vulnerability in a way that
12 it makes an Indigenous women or girl more vulnerable. Or
13 you can contribute to it in a way where it actually
14 strengthens them so that they feel that they can protect
15 themselves and they can carry on with life, feeling that
16 they are safe.

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So it goes both
19 ways.

20 And there's water here and there's some
21 fruit. And any time you need a washroom break, just let us
22 know. You might know where the washroom is but it's very,
23 very close by.

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** For both of you.

1 So just let us know and we'll just make sure that we do
2 everything we can to treat you with the utmost respect.

3 I will be taking some notes and the main
4 reason why I do that is just to help me remember things as
5 we're proceeding so that if you'd say something -- you were
6 talking about a German shepherd dog and we write it here
7 and then it comes up again and you're talking about a
8 poodle -- like, I would probably look at it and go, "I
9 wonder if she's talking about the same dog, because they
10 look a lot different."

11 Then I might ask a question about that when
12 you finish. Okay. Do you have either a German shepherd or
13 a poodle?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Thinking about it now.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And Thomas, are you
16 going to be speaking today?

17 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** No.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No, you're here ---

19 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Just supporting.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- just as a
21 support person?

22 Okay, great. What is your relationship with
23 Catherine?

24 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** I'm like a boyfriend.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. That's

1 great, thank you so much for being here.

2 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** You're welcome.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You agree with him,
4 right? That he's your boyfriend?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I'll just leave him out
6 of this one.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But you know what?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's very nice that
10 he's here, right?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah. M'hm.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, start when
13 you're ready.

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Are you going to do my
15 family tree?

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, you want to
17 start with that?

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Sure.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So I've got
20 to move this over here. So can we start by -- by the way,
21 those pens are pretty crummy so I've got a better one.
22 These are all going out of ink.

23 So let's start by putting the name of the
24 deceased person on the board here.

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** That would be my

1 mother, Annabelle.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And her name is?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Annabelle.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Annabelle? Is it

5 A-N ---

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** N-N-A-B-E-L-L-E.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And was it Mark?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you recall, or
10 do you know was she missing or murdered?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Murdered.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. What was the
13 date of that?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** First of all she was
15 born in March 3rd, 1950.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Great, thank you.
17 March 3rd, 1950.

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And I believe it had to
19 be in 1980.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What was the
21 location?

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** It was in Victoria,
23 B.C.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Where she was --
25 where she died?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes, Victoria,
2 Centennial Square.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Victoria what?

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Centennial Square.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Centennial Square.
6 Okay.

7 Where was she born?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** She was born -- I just
9 know she was born on a boat up near Gold River.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. That reminds
11 me of a joke. What are -- these guys go fishing and they
12 caught a lot of fish. They thought it was a wonderful
13 place to go fishing so they said, "Jeez, this is so great I
14 think we should do something so we can come back and catch
15 more fish another day."

16 So the guy said, "Okay." And so they went
17 back to the dock and he put an X on the bottom of the boat.

18 Anyway, most people are a bit smarter.

19 Okay, so how many siblings -- how many
20 offspring are there of Annabelle's?

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I believe there are
22 about 15 of them.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Fifteen (15)?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I think.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, and is it --

1 we'll put Annabelle here. You know how the (inaudible).

2 And your father was?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Michael Ambrose.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Pardon?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Michael Ambrose.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did you say

7 Nambert?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Ambrose. A-M-B-R-O-S-

9 E.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** S-E?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Okay, so was
13 it 15 with those 2? Or was it different?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** There's 15 on just my
15 mother's side, my mother's siblings.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, I see, I see.
17 Okay, so maybe they're ---

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah..

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay so why don't
20 we do that here. What was your mom's mom's name?

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Grandmother].

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is that how you
23 spell it?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Spells name].

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [Spells name]?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what was her
3 last name?

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** She was married. Last
5 name, I think it was probably [*Grandmother's last name*].

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Grandmother's last*
7 *name*].

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*Spells name*].

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Spells name*]?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*Spells name*].

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Spells name*].

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And she was in
14 partnership with somebody that resulted in the birth of
15 Annabelle. Who would that be? Who was Annabelle's dad?

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Grandfather].

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What are---

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Grandfather].

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Question about*
20 *name*]?

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*Clarification about*
22 *the grandfather's name*].

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, okay.
24 [Grandfather] is the first name?

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Indicates
2 (inaudible) of something.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And you
5 think there's 13 of these names.

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I believe there's 15 of
7 them all together.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Anyway -- 3,
9 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

10 Where would your mom be, approximately, in
11 this?

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** She would be the second
13 oldest.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so she's here
15 and she was born in 1950. Okay.

16 Now do you think it's important to put any
17 other people there? Do they play a role somehow, or do
18 they have information about her death?

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Actually, her sister
20 [Aunt 1], I believe she seen her the day that she passed
21 away, earlier in the day. She offered her -- I believe
22 that she offered her to stay at her place.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh.

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And my mother chose to
25 leave and then that's when it happened where she went out

1 drinking and she had someone follow her.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Wow.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** There was two different
4 stories, like, that she choked on her puke, her vomit.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, yeah.

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And that was from being
7 strangled.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. Okay, we'll
9 get into that.

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Okay.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** We'll talk more.
12 Where does [Aunt 1] fit on here?

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Well, actually I think
14 my mother is the third one, so ---

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, that's okay.
16 We can go to the ---

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Dry erase.

19 Okay, so is [Aunt 1] the second youngest?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I think she's the --
21 yeah, probably like the fourth or fifth one.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you know who
23 these others are?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I know there's [Uncle
25 1], and [Uncle 2] ---

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And where do ---

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** --- they're the two

3 oldest. Two older ones.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, okay.

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Uncle 1] and [Uncle
6 2].

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [Uncle 1] and
8 [Uncle 2]. Is it [*spells name*]?

9 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And then Annabelle?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** This might help you
13 get through the names. I'm just not sure---

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** They're all (inaudible)
15 the next one.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. When we're
17 in doubt about those things we just put the name and then a
18 question mark. She was born sometime after 1950?

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you remember how
21 many years difference there was?

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I have no idea. I
23 don't remember.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so we don't
25 really know.

1 Okay, any other important names that you can
2 think of?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Could be the youngest
4 one, [Uncle 3]. Those are the ones that lived in Victoria
5 and still do.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Uncle 3] and [Aunt 1].
8 And ---

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** They're both still
10 alive?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes, yes.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So then
13 Annabelle is born and then she ends up as a woman in a
14 relationship with Michael Ambrose and then, somewhere
15 around here there's you. How many offspring were there?

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** There -- first of all
17 my mother married a guy named Francis Mark. And she was
18 kind of in between -- she was married to one and then she
19 met my dad.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** They had -- their
22 oldest one was my brother [Brother 3] that's over here.

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

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And then there's me on
25 the second.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And what
2 year were you born in?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Date of birth], '71.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Everything here
5 you're talking to us about is -- you were nine years old
6 when that happened.

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is that right?

9 Any other siblings that are -- like how many
10 siblings were there between Annabelle and -- how many
11 offspring of Annabelle and Michael?

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** There -- my sister
13 Sister 1]. She was born on [date of birth] '72. And then
14 there is [Brother 4].

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Spells name*]?

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*Spells name*]. [Date
17 of Birth] '73.

18 [Sister 2]. [*Spells name*]. In [month of
19 birth] '73, same year.

20 Then my brother [Brother 1].

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, [Brother 1].

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** In '77 -- or '76,
23 sorry, 1976.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Brother 2].

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Question about*
2 *spelling*]?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*Spells name*].

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Spells name*].

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And he was born in '77.
6 They were both in [month of birth]. Both in [month of
7 birth].

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You know all your
9 siblings' birthdates. You probably played a role in
10 changing diapers.

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I did; I actually did,
12 because we were in and out of foster homes ---

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** --- and we had another
15 sister Tania but I didn't -- I think she was in between --
16 or it was (inaudible). She passed away as a baby, so I
17 don't know what year.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I put a "D" for
19 deceased. Are all these people still living?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Sister 1] passed away
21 and -- I think it was in May of '88. And my brother
22 [Brother 4] passed away as well. Probably -- like, it
23 could be around 10 years by now, possibly.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so about
25 2007?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Oh, 2011.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, dear.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** (Inaudible) ---

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's not there the
5 first time ---

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- and then you
8 take a few breaths and poof, like popcorn it shows up.

9 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** My dad passed away in
10 2007 and we were going to have a memorial four years after
11 his death and that's when my brother passed away.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh. So is this
13 right?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

16 So you've had a lot of deaths in your
17 family.

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm. Yeah.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** For a young woman
20 like you.

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I believe I have two
22 other siblings but I'm not too sure of. I know my brother
23 [Brother 3] would know about that.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, when was
25 [Brother 3] born?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Date of birth]. He's
2 four years older than I am.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Fours older, so
4 four years away from '71 would make it '67. So how old are
5 you now?

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I'm 46.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Anything
8 else you think should go in there?

9 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Maybe -- no, I can't
10 think of anything.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So that
12 helps because -- for example, if I said to you, "Did any
13 members of your family go to residential school?" You look
14 at that and you can tell; it helps a little bit. Like,
15 [Grandmother] and [Grandfather], did they go to residential
16 school? Or did your mom and ---

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** My dad did. My dad
18 went to the residential. And I'm not too sure, but maybe -
19 --

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Any of your
21 siblings, here with us?

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I'm not too sure if
23 [Brother 4] did.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I know when we were all

1 been in foster care except [Sister 3]; she was given up for
2 adoption in (inaudible) took her as a little baby.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay so you were in
4 foster care?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And Shaun was?

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Oh, you mean [Brother
8 2]?

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Ah, [Brother 4]
10 was?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, he grew up in
12 family's home.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Families?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** (Inaudible) like my
15 dad's mom, he grew up with.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And [Sister 2]?

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** She was given up for
18 adoption too. She ---

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And [Brother
20 1] ---

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Brother 1] and
22 [Brother 2] were both in foster care as well.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And do you know --
24 your mom didn't go through residential schools, as far as
25 you know?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Not that I'm aware of,
2 no.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Do you know
4 if [Grandmother], Francis or [Grandfather] did?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I have no idea of that.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So I'll just
7 put down no.

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I think my older
9 brother might have went to -- he might have went to
10 residential school. I'm not too sure about this.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

12 So if I've put red under, it's just -- like
13 there's a possibility that we don't know.

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, okay.

16 So yeah, feel free to refer to that when --
17 you know it just helps a little bit like, "Just a minute,
18 one minute, I have to look at the board. Oh yeah, now I
19 remember!" You should probably sit where I'm sitting.

20 Okay, that was well done. Thank you so
21 much, Catherine.

22 Okay. But now -- you started to talk about
23 what happened that day because your mom had a conversation
24 with [Aunt 1].

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Right. So do you
2 want to start there? Or would you need to start before
3 then or would you like to start about your mom's life or
4 your life or the kids in foster care or what -- where do
5 you want to start?

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** From what I remember is
7 -- when I lived with my parents on Victoria -- I know it
8 was [street name] -- I think street or avenue, I'm not
9 sure. Near the Victoria Friendship Centre. I remember
10 being apprehended from that place like two or three times
11 and I remember a lot of drinking parties going on. And
12 being sent down to the basement -- not to be around the
13 drinking. There's not too many good memories. We took
14 care of my younger siblings [Sister 1], [Brother 1], and
15 [Brother 2].

16 I witnessed a lot of things that I shouldn't
17 have seen as a child -- like sexual things and a lot of
18 violence, arguing and fighting. There was just so much
19 drinking going on that we didn't even have food. And my
20 dad always took as to the Food Bank.

21 When I was in foster care in Campbell River
22 after the last time being apprehended from my mother I
23 remember getting moved to Campbell River and then my
24 grandma, Katie, my dad's mom, picked us up and moved us to
25 Ahousaht. That was ---

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you mind
2 spelling that? Where you lived.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Campbell River?

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, Campbell River,
5 that's one I know.

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Campbell River and then
7 they moved us to Ahousaht. A-H-O-U-S-A-H-T.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Say it again.

9 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** A-H-O-U-S-A-H-T.

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

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And that's -- just
12 before my mother passed away I know there was a lot of snow
13 on the highway so it had to be close to winter. And I
14 remember I was playing around at my uncle's house --
15 because I lived my dad and his mom first and then there
16 house was getting rebuilt or torn down and getting their
17 house rebuilt so they asked me to go stay with my uncle
18 [Uncle 2], who took me in.

19 And I remember playing around in the bedroom
20 having pillow fights with my younger brother and then we
21 heard some kind of -- something serious going on. Well, I
22 did -- I went into the living room and I was told to go
23 back in the bedroom and we didn't play around anymore. We
24 were just sitting on the bed and trying to keep it quiet to
25 hear what was going on. Then my Uncle [Uncle 2] came in

1 and told me that my mother passed away. I don't know how
2 to react to that at first.

3 And not until I got older and [Aunt 1] was
4 telling me that she seen my mother that day she passed away
5 and she couldn't believe it when she had to go view the
6 body or identify the body. She -- I think she mentioned
7 that she offered my mother Annabelle to go stay -- spend
8 the day or night with her and my mother still went to town
9 anyways where she always used to go drinking at the
10 Centennial Square in Victoria.

11 I guess she got followed. She had one
12 stalker, I guess; that's what I was told. I first heard
13 that she choked on her vomit until she died. She was so
14 drunk she couldn't -- and then I heard as I got older that
15 she was actually murdered and -- choked her and -- so I'm
16 not really quite 100 percent what the truth is because I
17 don't talk to my family anymore. I don't -- there's just
18 really no connection.

19 It's when I was like 12 years old I took my
20 first drink of alcohol and I drank no matter what; even if
21 I got in trouble I would still do it anyways. It was
22 something to help me deal with -- kind of deal with what I
23 was going through. Because I always wished my mom was
24 there. I was tired of the way I grew up and I couldn't
25 handle it.

1 It was like I couldn't seem to get a break
2 and I wasn't -- I couldn't be a kid. No matter what I did
3 I was always being watched and being told what to do and
4 what not to do. And I always wished my mom was there. I
5 used to think things would be different if she was alive
6 and if she got clean and sober.

7 Taking care of my brothers and my sister and
8 -- I see that the youngest one is really struggling and
9 he's really missing the ones that have passed away, my
10 mother and my brother and sister, [Brother 2]. He at times
11 does call me Mom. Now on the internet he tries to talk,
12 and -- then he has all this hate, "You're never there for
13 me" or, you know.

14 Just as of last week I said, "Get on with
15 everything, you know. I'm not your mother. I'm not going
16 to be responsible for, you know, making you happy and feel
17 love and comfort and all that because I'm hurting too and
18 I've got to deal with it myself."

19 And that's where all my anger comes from, is
20 not having a mother. And I almost didn't even make it here
21 because of all that.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Sorry, what was the
23 last thing you said -- almost ---

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Almost didn't make it
25 to this -- what's going on right now.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, thank you so
2 much for making it.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** There's just a lot of
4 bad memories and a lot of -- just a lot of abuse and --
5 because I gave birth to -- well, I was raped. I was
6 molested by one of my mom's brothers at age five that I
7 remember, but -- nothing. I guess that's why I was over
8 protective of my siblings. I didn't want them to get hurt.
9 And that guy's still alive today.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is he on the Board?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, he isn't.

12 At the age of 12 I was raped and I think I
13 was pregnant because I had an abortion. Seventeen (17) is
14 when I got pregnant with my -- or I had a miscarriage. And
15 then I had -- I got pregnant with my oldest child, my son.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And how old were
17 you or what year was that?

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I was 17 when I had
19 him.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So you had a
21 miscarriage with ---

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Just before my oldest,
23 yeah.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** In those sexual
25 relations, was that consensual?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, not when I was 12,
2 no.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Not 12.

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And not five,
6 obviously.

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But even -- you
9 know the law says that it's basically illegal if it's
10 understood not to be -- that you're not consenting because
11 you're too young to consent when you're five and when
12 you're twelve.

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So any person --
15 and usually it would be a man or boy with the exception of
16 the 12 if it were somebody of a similar age and it was
17 apparent that you were consenting then that might be
18 different ---

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** The guy was -- he was a
20 few years older than me.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** A few years older
22 than you. So if it's more than three then it -- he'd be in
23 trouble.

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, I believe it's
25 more than three.

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

2 But the 17, with the miscarriage, that was -
3 - was that consensual?

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I started a
5 relationship with him when we were about 15, I think.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And I had five kids
8 with him.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's the same man
10 you later became pregnant ---

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- when you were
13 17?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that was your
16 eldest?

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, I got -- yeah, I
18 married -- well my grandma forced us to get -- forced me to
19 get married and -- at 18 years old.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What was his name?

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Husband's name].

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [Husband's name]?

23 Is he still living?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's so -- you

1 have five children?

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Let's see ---

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And we've got seven
5 grandchildren.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And seven
7 grandchildren. That's pretty neat, I think. As a -- I
8 think grandchildren are a lot easier to look after, aren't
9 they?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, I'll say.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Inaudible) the
12 light.

13 I'm sorry? Oh, I noticed that the -- thanks
14 very much for reminding me about the camera.

15 I noticed -- I learned a lot more about the
16 development of children through my grandchildren than my
17 actual children because I think I was just so busy making
18 sure that they had their creature comforts of eating ---

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- and sleeping,
21 and looking after them that some of the things that they
22 (inaudible) us, things that they were doing like ---

23 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So that picked up
25 when I started observing their kids.

1 So let's go back to your mom; but it's -- if
2 you -- if there's other violence that you've experienced in
3 your life that's really pertinent to this as well because
4 it's ---

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** All my relationships --
6 I think there's been a lot of violence and it allowed --
7 one of them was -- they were all different too. Like the
8 kids' dad was physically -- almost every kind of abuse
9 there was, he was. And after the divorce in -- I think it
10 was January of 2002 -- I think -- or when it was final.

11 I met someone else and he was much older
12 than me, like 12 years older and the only thing with him
13 was that he was the jealous type. And then I left him for
14 a younger guy -- almost 10 years younger than me and he was
15 physically abusive -- mentally. He's the one that broke my
16 leg slamming a big TV over my leg. A lot of times it
17 happened when there was drinking going on.

18 After -- he ended up in jail so many times
19 that I ended up leaving him finally and met an older
20 gentleman -- or an older guy; I can't call him a gentleman.
21 He was mentally abusive and he said harsh things like,
22 "Your dad would never forgive you." Just because I didn't
23 want to do things that he wanted me to -- how he wanted me
24 to live a certain way.

25 And he said, "You're going to die just like

1 your mom." Things like that. He'd lock me out and change
2 the locks and he was just really, really mean.

3 You know, two years I lasted with him on and
4 off but things like that I'd tolerate it for so long and it
5 took me, like, a long time to realize that I was probably
6 just immune to violence. You know, like thinking it was
7 just a normal thing and I had to quit feeling like the
8 victim and start doing something about it and start
9 thinking about myself instead of being there for everybody
10 else and make myself stronger again.

11 It was in -- but in my mom's drinking
12 parties there was a lot violence going on and I even seen
13 my own grandfather on top of my mother. A lot of guys that
14 went to the parties -- I remember having to clean up the
15 beer empties, wine bottles, and stuff like that.

16 A lot of movies I can't watch because it
17 triggers me. And, like, the drinking and violence.

18 Even it's just about this, seeing the same
19 thing everyday just a different crowd.

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

21 How well do you remember your foster care
22 situation? Do you remember the homes or were there ---

23 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I remember, I think, a
24 social worker named Michelle Green.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Michelle Green?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I think so, yeah.

2 Another foster home I remember -- or I don't
3 remember the foster mother's name but I remember three
4 girls named Jackie, and Jill, I think, and there's another
5 one; she started with a J but I can't remember her name.

6 And I lived in Saanich with a lady name
7 [L.S.], I think. She worked at the Victoria Friendship
8 Centre and she had a daughter named [G.] and [T.].

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did you have a
10 connection with any of your foster parents?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Or their children?

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was it always in
15 Victoria or Saanich?

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I think there might
17 have -- there was one foster home in Nanaimo, on the
18 reserve there. I don't remember their names. Then there
19 was a foster home in Campbell River with a First Nations
20 lady in -- there was just a whole bunch of us there.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Describe your
22 treatment in foster care.

23 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I know that when I was
24 living with the one with the three girls there I was -- I
25 don't know, I guess kind of something I wasn't used to. I

1 recall strict -- you just like I couldn't get off the table
2 until I eat all my dinner. I was in bed early, which I
3 wasn't used to. Where I lived in Campbell River there was
4 a whole bunch of us there and there was a little bit of
5 freedom there. I guess it's -- they watched other kids
6 just to see them having fun. I was just a little bit too
7 scared to. I was worried about my siblings more.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And how did that
9 work? When your social workers were dealing with you did
10 they try to keep you together or were you separated or ---

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I was with my brother
12 [Brother 1], and [Sister 1] and [Brother 2] were in another
13 foster home and we all came together when they got us to
14 Ahousaht.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** When they got what?

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** They got us all
17 together in Ahousaht.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, okay.

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** But yet we were still
20 in separate homes but were on the same reserve.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** We were all in the same
23 pairs, anyways.

24 And school -- when I went to school I was
25 pretty shy and scared and -- because they made it seem like

1 I didn't know anything, or -- and just like being a --
2 like, I wasn't a bed wetter but I was scared to go to the
3 bathroom because I was scared to get my -- like, when I
4 lived with my mom and then I was scared to go -- like leave
5 the room because I was scared my uncle would attack me
6 again. I remember running out of the house a few times,
7 hiding in the bushes, hiding behind the house.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Like, which uncle
9 was that?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** His name is [Uncle 4].

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that was the
12 one that (inaudible)?

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I'm just wondering
15 about that bit. Did you -- what happened and what did the
16 family do about the fact that you were raped by your uncle
17 [Uncle 4]?

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** My mom didn't do
19 anything and she -- for a long time I remember I felt it
20 was a set-up because [Aunt 1] showed up and she -- and they
21 went to go do laundry at a laundry mat together and she
22 told me to take all my clothes off so she could wash it and
23 she just wrapped a sheet around me. And I wanted to go and
24 I was crying and she said that [Uncle 4] was going to watch
25 me.

1 And I remember [Aunt 1] saying, "Why don't
2 you just take her?" And I was crying so hard and she told
3 him to lock the door behind them or whatever -- and I --
4 that was one of the things that were -- I was so mad at my
5 mom. Because she knew what was going on.

6 When I went to treatment -- I think it was
7 in 2000 with my kids and my ex-husband and we went to this
8 sweat. And I was trying to deal with that issue with my
9 mother and asked, "Why, why, why? Why did you allow me to
10 -- allow this to happen to me?"

11 And the answer that I felt that I got was
12 that she didn't want to be alone -- and just -- I was only
13 five and -- you know how could someone do that to a child?
14 I was -- I felt like I was just hurt and in a lot of pain
15 and growing up I never thought -- whenever we were told we
16 were going to go see our parents I always ran to my dad
17 right away because he was the comforting one. To this day
18 I never recall my mom saying, "I love you" to me. I don't
19 ever recall ---

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is there anything
21 you'd like to say, Gertrude?

22 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Pardon?

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is there anything
24 you'd like to say at this point?

25 You know, when I listen to you, Catherine,

1 my heart hurts for you. What happened to you -- over and
2 over and the idea that a little five-year-old girl would be
3 raped by her uncle -- it's a story that should inspire
4 everybody to encourage change so that never happens.

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** It was -- I've always
6 tried to be on my own without a partner and -- but having
7 that -- missing my dad and -- but at the same time with
8 everything that I've been through with men it just makes me
9 hate them so much. I have to teach myself that all men
10 aren't the same. I don't -- I don't like alcohol but it --
11 it was something that was there for me to help me hide my
12 pain. I didn't know how to deal with it.

13 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** And I'd just like to
14 say -- knowing you had a -- sharing your story about your
15 abuse it's helping you to let that go so you don't carry it
16 anymore because you shared it with us now and it won't
17 belong to you anymore. And that's part of your healing and
18 you've got to keep on, you know, going to see -- you're
19 seeing a counsellor or seeing someone to help you through
20 the trauma that you went through as a child. You need to
21 talk about it and keep talking about it until it doesn't
22 hurt you anymore. And then you can forgive and let it go.

23 The hardest part for us is to forgive
24 someone for hurting us. And you know we don't know why
25 they did that or -- you know what made them do them things

1 at that time. And well, you're a very strong woman. You
2 know just hearing you talking about -- you know, the trauma
3 that you've been through that you're going to be able to
4 get through this and you're going to be able to heal
5 yourself.

6 And you'll learn to love someone with all
7 your heart and you have so much love in you. You have --
8 you have all your grandchildren you know that -- you know
9 that you're going to be able to teach -- you know teach the
10 teachings to them and help them grow in a healthy way too.
11 So I'm glad you shared that; I know that was hard but, you
12 know, it's important for you to do that. I just want to
13 let you know that I care about you and I want to see you
14 grow up to be a healthy, strong grandmother to each of your
15 grandchildren and your children. Okay.

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Because I went as far
17 as I can go.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** This is as far as
19 you can go?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Would you like a
22 break or should I just start asking you some questions?
23 What would you like?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I can go on.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You can carry on?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

3 So you were only nine when your mom died but
4 do you know whether or not -- do you know anything about
5 whether or not the police were involved and if somebody was
6 found to have done something to her?

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I don't ---

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Or what do you know
9 about that part?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I don't think that the
11 person was caught, or -- if anyone should really know would
12 probably be [Aunt 1].

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Are you still in
14 touch with [Aunt 1]?

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But she's still in
17 Victoria?

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And is her last
20 name -- what is her last name?

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [Last name]. Yeah, but
22 she's married to [Aunt's husband].

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Spells name*] ---

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** --- [*Spells name*].

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Spells name*]?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And it's
3 pronounced ---

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*Pronounces last name*].

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Pronounces last*
6 *name*].

7 What's his first name?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*First name*].

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you, I
10 remember you saying that.

11 Did the police ever talk to you?

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, not that I can
13 remember.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that's when you
15 were staying with your uncle that you were informed about
16 that?

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But a different
19 uncle; it wasn't ---

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [*Uncle 2*].

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Uncle 2*], yeah.

22 Okay, so he was older than your mom?

23 The times that you saw your mom, can you
24 give us some sort of a sample of what that was like? Like,
25 where you would be, what she would be doing? You've talked

1 about the parties and you said that those were on a regular
2 basis.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm. Probably a
4 couple times I remember where -- we were hardly ever in the
5 same room. I remember one time when I was scared. Me and
6 my sister [Sister 1] were in the same bedroom, or we had a
7 bunk bed and she was on the bottom and I was on the top
8 bunk bed. And I kept hearing this noise in the bedroom and
9 I was getting more scared and I thought someone was trying
10 to get in or -- so I went to go call my mom and I had -- I
11 took me like three times to get her up to come see what was
12 going on. She put the light on and it turned out it was my
13 sister just kicking the closet door.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, that was good
15 news.

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Oh yeah.

17 And another time when she took me to school
18 and picked me up to bring me to -- to take me out to lunch
19 when I was going to George Jay School in Victoria -- George
20 Jay -- George Jay Elementary.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** This might -- if
22 you can't relate to this at all I'll put a big X on this
23 page and we'll carry on, okay?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But sometimes this

1 helps. So I started with your birthday which is '71 and it
2 was 1972 that you turned one and I've gone down to age 41 -
3 - you're actually 46, so that's a little while ago. So we
4 go like '71 -- so this is the year -- so I've got one
5 column for the year, one column for your age, and I've got
6 one column for your grade. Sometimes this helps map things
7 out a little bit.

8 Do you mind if I come and sit beside you for
9 a moment?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Some things that
12 we've talked about is -- let's put a big one on here, which
13 is the death of your mom in 1980. Then this is the rape by
14 your uncle.

15 And just on the subject of rape -- and I
16 don't want you to describe the whole thing but I actually
17 am aware that -- because -- I didn't tell you this but I
18 worked as a Crown prosecutor for 33 years and I specialized
19 in prosecuting sex crimes. One thing that I learned is
20 that different folks use different words to describe what
21 happened and in fact there's a study where some people --
22 teenagers are asked questions and they believe that you're
23 -- that if you even put the tongue in somebody else's mouth
24 that that's having sex.

25 If you went to a doctor and said, "I have --

1 I've had sex and I want you to check it out." And what you
2 want them to check out was the mouth, the doctor wouldn't
3 assume that, you know. The doctor might assume that they
4 wanted a genital exam.

5 So I'm just wondering, what do you
6 understand rape to be? When you use the word "rape". What
7 do you understand that to be?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I use the word molest
9 when I talk about my uncle.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** He was -- he used put
12 his hands in my vagina and he just would be touching me all
13 over and -- most would hurt me and -- literally force his
14 fingers right up in my vagina and wouldn't stop even if I
15 was crying so hard. And he had this real -- a real evil
16 smile on his face while he was doing it.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so you use
18 the word "molest" ---

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- to describe
21 that. Okay. Thank you so much.

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Okay.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's all I needed
24 to ask about that.

25 What were some other important things in

1 here? Well, at 17 -- which is right here -- so you turned
2 -- your birthday's in March, right?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** March.

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** When I was 12 I was
6 raped.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Eh?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** When I was 12 I was
9 raped.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And so was
11 it the same as the molest or was it different?

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Different.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, and ---

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** It was an older guy on
15 the Ahousaht Reserve.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You used the word
17 "rape", and what do you mean by rape?

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Well, pants was pulled
19 down and he inserted his penis inside me and I bled for a
20 couple of days.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And can you just
22 address what happened and did anything happen to him about
23 -- for doing that? Or did anyone intervene in any way and
24 ---

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I was threatened by him

1 and said if I told anyone that he was going to come for me
2 again, that he was going to do it again.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

4 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** In 2010, I think it
5 was, when I was raped again when my leg was broken by my ex
6 he was sitting -- a drinking party and I was in a wheel
7 chair and I couldn't -- my leg wasn't healed yet and --
8 2010 -- I was kicking everybody out and the last person to
9 leave was the guy that raped me.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that was the
11 same situation as this old guy in terms of ---

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** It was a different guy;
13 he lived on the Ahousaht reserve too but it happened in
14 Port Alberni here.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So what I
16 meant by that this -- the same action though.

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

18 But it was like both sides and -- to the
19 point where I left (inaudible) on the floor and -- because
20 I was trying to get up get away from him and I couldn't
21 walk and -- so I just hopped to my wheel chair and try to
22 get out real fast and went down the hallway and told my
23 uncle who lived a few doors down from where I was and asked
24 him to call the cops.

25 He was in such shock that he sat there and

1 cried first before he ran out and couldn't believe what he
2 had just seen because I had my pants over my legs covering
3 me; and they caught the guy though, later on that night.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what happened
5 then?

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** He -- they took him in
7 custody and he served some time.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did you go to
9 court?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you told the
12 judge the story?

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And your uncle
15 probably testified too?

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, it was just him
17 against me. There were -- I went down to the hospital and
18 Maureen Knighton was there and (inaudible) the victim's
19 worker.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I just want to put
21 that on the chart. What year was that and what -- how old
22 were you?

23 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** The year 2000 it
24 happened.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I need your pen.

1 What was that man's name?

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** [R.J.]. I think he
3 goes by [alternate name].

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Like [spells name]?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes.

6 He actually just showed up before we came
7 here at the gym.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh really?

9 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So you've seen him
11 in the last few days?

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I just seen him just
13 today.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Just today. And
15 how was that?

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Just as long as he
17 keeps his distance and ---

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You actually said
19 that to him, to keep distance? No?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I just feel that way,
21 like, if he doesn't try and approach me or anything.
22 Because he did his time and he finished his probation or
23 whatever and -- yeah.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Anything more you
25 want to say about that?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

3 How were you treated by the authorities in
4 that investigation, the rape and the prosecution? What did
5 you think about all that? Was it -- how did they treat
6 you?

7 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Well, they treated me
8 alright and they were supportive and provided me with
9 services where I can turn to, the women's centre and
10 Victims and who I can talk to and the services. They just
11 provided a lot of services that I could turn to.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So at that
13 time you were 29. Did you testify in the same room as
14 Dicky John?

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Testified? Yeah I did.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So if that happened
17 again would you call the police?

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The answer is yes?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes. M'hm.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Anything else that
22 we should put on this chart?

23 I was wondering if you could figure out the
24 times that you were -- which I -- I think this is a stupid
25 question so I'm already giving myself heck for it but I'm

1 just wondering if you can give any indication of the years
2 that you were more with your mom and the time that you were
3 more steadily in foster care. Or was it even like that?
4 So maybe it's not even -- can't even be recorded.

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No. I don't know. As
6 much as I wanted to be with my mom I wouldn't know how to
7 feel anyways because even though we were in the same house,
8 we were in the same room because I didn't feel acknowledged
9 by her or maybe she was ashamed by what she was allowing to
10 happen.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And how could you
12 tell as a kid growing up whether your mom had been drinking
13 and she was sober or drunk? What did you learn as a kid
14 about that?

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Can you say that again?

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I'm trying to
17 figure out from you how often you saw your mom either sober
18 or drunk or somewhere in between. So the first question I
19 was going to ask is though -- as a child -- because I kind
20 of remember when I saw the first drunk man and I was kind
21 of shocked at the way he was behaving. But I remember to
22 this day how he was behaving. You know, I remember because
23 it was unusual to see somebody behaving that way.

24 I'm just wondering if you could describe how
25 you learned about the difference between someone not

1 drinking and how they behaved and someone who drinks and
2 how they behave ---

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** She ---

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- related to your
5 mom.

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I remember my mom being
7 -- like, loud, or in a happy mood. When she was sober she
8 was quiet, distant, or getting angry easy. After getting
9 angry she'd go out and not come back for hours and coming
10 home drunk, in a different mood. And "Guys, go down
11 downstairs." Just because there was a party with a lot of
12 people and strangers coming to the house.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So sometimes the
14 parties were at your house and sometimes they're -- your
15 mom went to other parties.

16 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** She'd leave going out
17 to the bar and then she'd come home with parties -- like
18 bring people to the house.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And what
20 houses do you remember that happening in?

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I just know there's
22 like either a couple of houses away from the Victoria
23 Friendship Centre.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And that was
25 in Victoria?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes. I know we moved
2 around a lot and I remember that house specifically because
3 I think it was the last house we lived in.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What do you
5 remember about the apprehensions? How did they come about?

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I remember them coming
7 in to come into the house and I'd be running and hiding or
8 holding onto my dad and telling them I don't want to go
9 with them. I told them I wanted to stay with him. I
10 remember running away from them -- I don't know if it was
11 called YMCA at the Victoria Centennial Square I think where
12 (inaudible). We were all lined up ready to go inside the
13 building and I ran away. As young as I was I found my way
14 home to see my dad. Then not too long after getting there
15 the social worker and the cops showed up to come pick me
16 up.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you have a
18 memory of about how old you were, like how fast you could
19 run?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I had to have been
21 around seven or something then.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Now, do you know --
23 at that particular time -- and I appreciate that when your
24 mom died you were nine -- but did you have a sense of
25 whether or not you had money for things? Do you know where

1 your mom and dad's money came from?

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, not very often.

3 After some parties I'd find some change and I remember
4 running a couple of blocks up from where we lived to go
5 grab something to eat, like, even if it was just a bag of
6 chips. I remember my dad getting mad about my mom going
7 out drinking all the time and my dad took us to the food
8 bank -- or took me to the food bank. I remember finding a
9 \$100 bill and I thought it was just like a \$10. "I found
10 10 bucks." My dad said, "Let me look" and he said it was
11 100 bucks.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I bet you went back
13 to that couch.

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I found it outside a
15 parking lot on our way to town.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** A parking lot.

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Well, you
19 know what? You found a good memory.

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So here's
22 the situation where your mom found herself in a predicament
23 where she -- somebody inflicted harm on her and she died.
24 And do you remember we were talking about, you know, the
25 systems and things that contributed to your mom's

1 vulnerability? Or to women and girls who find themselves
2 missing or murdered or violence being inflicted upon them.
3 What do you think your mom's vulnerabilities were? Like,
4 where were they coming from, do you think?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Alcohol is a big factor
6 in our family. It's, like, right from our grandfather that
7 I know of because he was one of them that hurt my mom. And
8 I remember they used to sing quite a bit when they were
9 drinking because my grandfather played the accordion and
10 the harmonica and he was a good singer as well and I
11 remember hearing all that.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** He was a good what?

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** He was a good singer.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Singer.

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah. And he played
16 the accordion and harmonica.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Where did you get
18 the information from that your grandfather hurt your mom?

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I witnessed it
20 sometimes.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, was that when -
22 - I remember that there was one time that someone was on
23 top of your mom.

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, my grandfather,
25 her dad.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** How old -- you were
2 looking at that through the eyes of a child, right?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** About how old were
5 you about, do you think?

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Six, seven ---

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, so you'd
8 already ---

9 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** --- eight, yeah six,
10 seven, eight.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- been molested.
12 So you had some information about that. You'd seen
13 violence before that as well. Again, so you see this
14 grandfather on top of your mom -- and how long did you
15 stand around or look -- sit around and watch what was
16 happening?

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I probably seen it all
18 -- like just a few seconds and because my grandfather had
19 like a big belly and they were like -- she was slightly off
20 the bed and they were face to face. And I guess when they
21 heard the door and -- I don't know, I was going to go ask
22 my mom something and she said, "Get out of here!" And I
23 ran out and I stayed downstairs in the basement for a long
24 time until someone came to get me.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So from what you

1 saw did you conclude anything about what they were doing?

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No. Did your mom
4 say anything?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. But you saw
7 your grandfather's fat belly, as you say. Do you recall
8 what he was wearing?

9 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** His pants were off and
10 I know he had a shirt on; he had like a striped shirt on or
11 something.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what part of
13 your mom could you see?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Her -- the whole side
15 of her body. And she had no clothes on whatsoever,
16 nothing.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so you're
18 saying from what you know of the situation that your
19 grandfather's behaviour towards your mother contributed to
20 her vulnerability in a way that made her more vulnerable.

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And how does that
23 work for you? Like, what's your understanding of that?
24 How would a father mistreating a daughter make the daughter
25 more vulnerable?

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I think he had more --
2 just being a parent is -- I guess I'd see it as that he had
3 more authority over here and, you know, "I'm a parent and
4 do as you're told" kind of thing.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Right, okay. Any
6 other things that you would think contribute to your mom's
7 -- like for example, you say that you went to the food
8 bank. So is there anything that your family wanted that
9 you could go and get because you had the money?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I don't know. I guess
11 I'd never ever seen my mom grocery shop at all. My dad
12 used to get mad at my -- I assumed at -- my mom always got
13 cheques or money or whatever and she went and spent it
14 foolishly. It seemed like alcohol always came first.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was your mother
16 connected to a First Nations community?

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Not that I know of, no.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did she -- as far
19 as you saw from when you saw her, was she connected with
20 anyone who was providing her any type of therapy around her
21 alcoholism or around instruction around how to care for
22 children, or ---

23 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I believe the Ministry
24 -- that she had told her to keep the house clean and would
25 have to do certain things in order to keep us or get us

1 back.

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

3 Did she have any illnesses or anything that
4 you know?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No. I know my dad was
6 an epileptic. I think he was a logger before and a log hit
7 him or something and he started having seizures. I think
8 that's why my dad didn't drink as much as my mom.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** And then my dad moved
11 up to Ahousaht with his mom Katie and my mom was left in
12 Victoria. I remember then -- I remember her showing up in
13 Ahousaht a couple of times.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Your dad's mom?

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** My own mom ---

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, okay

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** --- showed up from
18 Victoria to Ahousaht to see my dad.

19 I think she was wanting at the time to quit
20 drinking and get us back and it was already too late for
21 that.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** When did they
23 separate?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I have no idea. I was
25 already in foster home and I didn't know -- I thought they

1 were still in Victoria. But when my grandma came to get me
2 -- said that my dad lives there with her and he wanted to
3 see me.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** How did your dad
5 treat you?

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** My dad was loving and
7 caring. Somewhere around the late nineties when he asked
8 me -- he said, "I need to ask you something." He asked me
9 if my Uncle [Uncle 4] did some bad touching with me as a
10 child and I said, "Yeah."

11 And he said "I knew it. I knew it." He
12 wasn't too sure and I just said I was scared to tell --
13 tell somebody about it.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Are you all right
15 with me sitting where I'm sitting? Or would you rather
16 have me move somewhere else?

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** You're okay.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I'm okay?

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you. I like
21 you sitting beside me, too.

22 So did your dad ever hit you or do anything?

23 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No.

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So I mean he died
2 10 years ago.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** In 2007.

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did you have
7 contact with your dad when you were in foster homes?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Not so much. No.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did anyone ever
10 explain to you why you didn't go live with your dad and
11 your grandma instead of foster homes?

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So your mom
14 was quite young when she died.

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Thirty (30).

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** She was 30 years
17 old.

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I'm thinking ---

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You've already
20 outlived her by 16 years.

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah. I thought I was
22 going to die when I was 30. That's what I used to think
23 when I was a kid. When I was getting closer to 30 years
24 old I was getting scared for my life.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, do you the

1 have same vulnerabilities that your mom had?

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I think it's back then
3 just learning on my own where my strength comes from. I
4 have been suicidal in the past and the last time was about
5 three years ago when I took a bunch of pills and just threw
6 it up right away and I downed it with a beer, a can of
7 beer.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What are your
9 drinking habits now?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Every now and then I
11 drink a two-litre cooler. Since I moved away from Port
12 Alberni it's -- I really cut down in two and a half months.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And how old are
14 your kids now?

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** They're all adults now,
16 21 to 27 or 28, 27.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So do you help with
18 the care of your grandkids?

19 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah I do. I see them
20 in town sometimes and seen them this summer -- I got to see
21 them at the water -- or at the park there, the water park.
22 My oldest grandchild recognized me right away even though
23 it's been a few years since I seen him.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So do you know
25 where you go for help when you -- well, did you go for help

1 when you shared -- sorry, when you drank these pills that
2 you selected with the beer? Did you get -- I mean, did you
3 realize what you were doing and realize that you needed
4 help? Or how did you deal with it?

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** When I was at the
6 hospital there Maureen Knighton came to see me from the
7 Quu'asa Program. And I was already involved with the
8 Mental Health Centre and the women's groups and a group for
9 violence against women and relationship issues. And I've
10 been, like, involved off and on for a number of years.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You know, I know
12 that different things work for different people but what
13 have you found that to be the most effective to -- first of
14 all, what do you consider to be you at your healthiest?
15 Like what is it that when you look in the mirror and you
16 say, "Well, you know what? I'm doing great. Things are
17 good and I'm healthy."

18 So what would that look like for you?
19 What's important?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Keeping myself busy and
21 I notice a change in myself being clean and sober and, you
22 know, having my own independence and grandchildren around,
23 my own kids and grandkids. And that is something that's
24 kept me strong and sober.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, great. Thank

1 you.

2 And so with all this help that you've
3 received plus the fact that you've just got older -- you
4 know, like, as we get older we start to realize that pills
5 and beer aren't really a good idea.

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But sometimes it's
8 a combination of things, isn't it? It's getting older,
9 maturing ---

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- understanding
12 life and then we hang out with people who've got good
13 advice, like Gertrude.

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Like that.

16 So what's worked for you, do you think?
17 Like, if your sister was in trouble or if one of your
18 children which one would you say, "Well, you know, that
19 worked for me and I recommend it." What would it be?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Just being in a
21 different town and a different group of friends and finding
22 other resources and just clean friends, clean people that
23 are sober. After my moving to a town I didn't really know
24 and I walked around to find resources in Nanaimo. I've
25 seen myself get a lot healthier with all that walking and

1 seeing the colour come back into me.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Gertrude, tell
3 Catherine how many steps you walk every day.

4 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** I always walk about
5 10,000 plus steps a day.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you count them
7 one by one?

8 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** No, I have a Fitbit I
9 wear and it counts my steps and I find that therapy for me,
10 walking.

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, I had one of
12 those on the phone and it was like over 12,000. And moving
13 to Nanaimo was probably way more because it has to be --
14 like a 30-minute walk from where I was to into town. Then
15 I'd walk around all over and then I'd walk back three times
16 a day. So it's ---

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well,
18 congratulations. Because the body, you know, the way it's
19 evolved, it's evolved to move, not sit in our chairs the
20 way we are this morning.

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Well, when I would be
22 in Port Alberni or with all of my, well, toxic friends and
23 I never used to go out and get out and walk unless I had an
24 appointment somewhere. Being in a different town I walked
25 everywhere from morning til nighttime. I was out from

1 8:00, 9:00 a.m. til 10:00, 11:00 at night. That was a big
2 change for me and I felt a lot healthier, seeing different
3 people -- even strangers. It was nice just to talk to them
4 on the streets or at the waterfront.

5 With all the events going on there it lifted
6 my spirits and I wasn't in that down mode where I just
7 wanted to be depressed and drink and whatever. I didn't
8 want to hear anybody's drama. All I wanted to do was sit
9 there and drink by myself. I didn't have to drink to get
10 drunk, but even just a little bit out of the bottle would
11 just kind of tone me down. I like the changes that I'm
12 making today.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So if someone said
14 -- came to you -- a woman friend about your age, maybe a
15 bit younger and said, "I want to be busy, I want to be
16 clean, I want to be sober, and I want to be able to hang
17 out with my kids and grandkids so we have a good time. And
18 I'd like to do it as quickly as I can." What would you
19 tell them to do?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Go do it.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And are there any
22 of the services that you've been to that you would say,
23 "And here, I've got a card" or "Go to that place because
24 they'll help you in there." Would you recommend any place?

25 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Well, it would depend

1 on what it's for.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, okay. I'll
3 give you an example. If someone says, "Well, I just can't
4 do it because I just feel I have to drink every day."

5 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I know the place in the
6 town I'm staying in, it's called the Tillicum -- they were
7 pretty helpful as -- one reason why I found a lot of
8 resources.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, can you just
10 say that again? Just so that we can identify what you
11 said? Where was it located? In what city?

12 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** In Nanaimo.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** In Nanaimo.

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And did you say
16 Tillicum?

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Tillicum. T-I-L-L-I-C-
18 U-M.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, and what do
20 they provide there?

21 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** They offer a lot of
22 services there. There's one lady that works there with the
23 medical supplies; there are vitamins and stuff like that.
24 Another one -- there's just a lot of people in that centre
25 that are pretty helpful. And one person that when you

1 spoke to is the one that told us where the employment
2 centre is and stuff like that, and the library with access
3 to a computer and the women's -- another service for people
4 on disability.

5 I walk around so much that I found, like, a
6 lot of properties -- rental properties because we're still
7 looking for a place. I just found Tillicum pretty helpful
8 anyways. They provide bus tickets and let you know where -
9 - what buses to catch, and stuff like that. That is one
10 place that I would recommend to go see in that area.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What if this woman
12 said to you, "You know what, I'm just -- I just don't think
13 I'm a very good parent. I just feel like I don't really
14 know how to do it." What would you say to her about that?

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I would try to support
16 that lady as much as I can from my experience because my
17 kids were apprehended a couple of times and I would never
18 make that mistake again. I need to see my kids all grown
19 up now; I missed out on a few years with them myself.

20 It was just a repeated pattern from what I'd
21 seen with my mother and I didn't want to put my kids
22 through that -- going through foster care. I didn't feel
23 so well bonded with my family being in foster care it just
24 -- nowadays I'm not very close with them. Not even on the
25 Internet, they don't say hi to me and I don't say hi to

1 them.

2 One of my -- one of my cousins passed away
3 due to drugs and my family didn't even inform me of when
4 the funeral was or where.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I just want to make
6 sure that I understand this. Are you in communication with
7 your five children?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes, I am.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Me, I've seen -- just
11 over two weeks ago now we had a little get together at one
12 of the parks in Nanaimo. It was good to see all my kids
13 together. We had, like, all the grandchildren -- there was
14 seven.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, wow, okay.

16 And so if this woman said, "I think it would
17 really help if I got a job." You said that in Tillicum
18 they also have employment services there. And have you
19 used those?

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah. I use as much
21 resources as I can.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** How is the economy
23 in Nanaimo? Can you find work fairly easy?

24 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Work is a lot easier to
25 find than a place -- I know the places go to the college

1 students pretty much. It's pretty tough. Even the motels
2 there they were asking like \$1400 a month for a motel room
3 to rent and that's just way too steep for me. So I walk
4 around in Nanaimo to look for -- so a couple places I'm
5 going to look at when I get back there today.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's a current
7 issue that you have is finding a place to live?

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yes.

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

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** If I can't find one
11 pretty quick I think I'm going to just go to the next town
12 and try to find one.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Go to -- what's the
14 next town?

15 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Well, I've been on the
16 Internet looking for, you know, something I might be able
17 to do as a job. I don't know, it's hard to say that --
18 where -- like Alberta, maybe, Vancouver -- you know, like
19 I've only been off the island three times in my whole life
20 and I'm willing to take this next step.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So do you feel
22 vulnerable?

23 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, I don't.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No? You've been on
25 a journey where you've learned a tremendous amount, haven't

1 you?

2 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You have wisdom to
4 give to others, even. It's flowing out of you.

5 Is there anything else you'd like to say?

6 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** No, I think I've pretty
7 much --you've got a whole lot more than I expected.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Let me just see
9 whether or not -- did you -- how far did you get in school?

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I finished up to Grade
11 9. And I did some ---

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what -- how old
13 were you when you finished up to Grade 9?

14 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Seventeen (17). When I
15 got pregnant with my son. I finished that when I found out
16 I was pregnant.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** How does that feel
18 for you that you're up to Grade 9. Like that's really
19 great that you did finish it.

20 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I waited a few years
21 after my youngest child was born in '95 and I went to
22 college and I did the assessment there. I had a -- Grade
23 11, 12, and some college levels.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's what I would
25 have thought.

1 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I just about finished
2 that but my husband was a little bit jealous and wondering
3 who was all in my class, why I was so interested to get out
4 of there. We didn't have a good marriage and he was
5 getting tired of being with the kids or whatever and I was
6 trying to get my education. I wanted to be, like, a
7 probation for -- like the young ones.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, okay. A
9 child youth worker.

10 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, wow, you'd be
12 great at that.

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, and I seen Patty
14 Edwards a few times here and she's an architect and she
15 said that I'd be good to take over her -- a big compliment
16 for me anyways. Because I helped out a lot of people with
17 family maintenance and taxes and you name it. I knew my
18 way around. (Inaudible), whatever it is, I'm always
19 helping out people.

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

21 Well, it's an honour to meet you.

22 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Thank you.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You've helped me
24 today. Helped me understand things, helped me see right
25 before my eyes an amazing story about a woman who brought

1 so much to her life because of her own courage, and will,
2 and kindness. So thank you.

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** M'hm. Thank you.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I hope you find
5 a nice place. How's that work with Tom? Do you guys live
6 near each other? Or are you staying at Tom's? Is Tom
7 going to have to move off the island too?

8 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** It was a lot more easier
9 looking for work over there than it was here.

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

11 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Yeah, I'm 42 years old and
12 it's real hard to get a job down here.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. You're
14 talking about it's easier to find work in Nanaimo?

15 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Yeah, well anywhere's I
16 went to the west coast in -- work is easy over there, I was
17 cooking for 12 years over on that side. But (inaudible).
18 All in a matter of 10 days in Nanaimo and I end up finding
19 a job down there and people coming to me saying, "We need a
20 worker." A lot easier over there.

21 But like she was saying it's hard to find
22 accommodations down there. Even with the -- services and
23 all that down there -- like the Mid-Island Métis and
24 Tillicum and all that, it just -- they've got shelters
25 there that will only do for men or women, right? They

1 won't do it for couples.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I see. Yeah.

3 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** I think it's one of the
4 things they can work on though, too, you know -- is getting
5 shelters for couples instead, you know.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Where are you guys
7 staying then?

8 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** At her daughter's.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so you do
10 have a roof over your heads at least.

11 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Yeah.

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

13 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** We'll see what happens,
14 like she said; we might go back, or maybe something like
15 that.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Have you heard the
17 story before, about how incredible ---

18 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** I've heard bits and pieces.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. So what do
20 you think about what we can to protect Indigenous women and
21 girls?

22 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** I -- this is the first
23 time, you know -- I've never really heard much about this
24 murdered and missing women before.

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

1 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** This is the first time ever
2 hearing about it, and you know I'm -- I wouldn't know what
3 to say right now, you know?

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

5 Well, a great start is even being here,
6 isn't it? So thank you, Thomas, for that.

7 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Yeah, that's good.

8 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** It sounded all right to
9 come check out.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's kind of like
11 now that, you know, one recommendation that we hear quite a
12 bit is that -- well, the first thing is to let people know
13 about it. Because there will clearly be a core group of
14 people who will want to do something about it and start to
15 figure it out in the working community to help.

16 So that's interesting, and I think you said
17 that you're -- are you 40?

18 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Forty-two (42).

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Forty-two (42).

20 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Yeah.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You're 42 and this
22 has actually been going on for decades.

23 **MR. THOMAS SAM:** Yeah.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** A long, long time.
25 I mean, I say decades but it could actually be hundreds of

1 years or even more. So in your generation you're finding
2 out when you're 42. What difference will it make to the
3 country when more people know about it? Hopefully, we
4 assume that people are compassionate and care about women
5 and understand the important role of women in everybody's
6 lives in the community, but particularly with the children.

7 Maybe they'll realize that we have to come
8 together and think about how to protect them. But not
9 protect them in a way where they say, "No, you can't do
10 that and you can't do that." Which is what it used to be
11 like. Where a man's way of protecting a woman was, "No,
12 you've got to wear a dress, or -- and you've got to wear --
13 you got to bind your feet and you've got to stay in the
14 kitchen."

15 But, that actually makes them more
16 vulnerable if they aren't given the opportunity to learn
17 what life is about and to be part of it equally.

18 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** That's one thing I'm
19 afraid of because my granddaughter she's only 10, my
20 oldest, and she knows how to work the Internet. She -- I
21 didn't even know what that chat thing was -- Snapchat, I
22 think it's called. She said, "Hi, Grandma" to me and she
23 even sends messages so fast I can't even keep up.

24 I'm like, "What else do know about this
25 Internet stuff; you know, it's not safe all the time."

1 She's only 10 years old and she reminds me
2 of me in a little kid because she's a lot more mature for
3 her age and I'm not happy about that. She can't just be a
4 kid, you know. Then when we had the get-together I was
5 happy to see her be a kid, run around and play games with
6 her cousins. But when she's not around other kids she's
7 right there involved with the adult stories. She uses,
8 like, big words.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, well, you
10 know, I'm a grandma too and I -- things like that I
11 consider this nose is going to be in that business, you
12 know?

13 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** There's certain
15 things that we as grandmas need to do to protect our
16 grandchildren too.

17 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Yeah, (inaudible)
18 because I have one son and four daughters and I have three
19 granddaughters and four grandsons. I watch how they sit
20 and how they dress and -- you know, "Don't sit like that."
21 I -- you know the tickle games; I don't like
22 them to have tickle games because that was a trigger for me
23 too. I would just get so uncomfortable with them if they
24 play tickle with you. But that's how I (inaudible)
25 overprotective. Yeah.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Are you ready to go
2 for a walk?

3 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** I am.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. I've got to
5 turn the camera off and get your particulars on how to get
6 a hold of you -- get your phone number, email if you have
7 email. I can turn the -- sure.

8 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** Can I use this?

9 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Who was the initial
10 contact made by for you to come here? Did somebody call?

11 **MS. CATHERINE MARK:** My own brother made a
12 phone call to my oldest brother.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** This is the end of
14 the interview with Catherine Mark. The time is 18 minutes
15 after 11:00.

16
17 --- Upon adjourning

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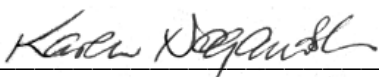
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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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



Karen Noganosh

October 2, 2017