National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Smithers, British Columbia
Northwest Community College

PUBLIC

Thursday September 28, 2017

Statement - Volume 18
Mike Robertson,
In relation to Chassidy Charlie & Doreen Jack

Statement gathered by Caitlin Hendrickson

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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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List of documents submitted with testimony:

1. Business card of Statement Provider
2. Composite page of photographs of Chassidy Charlie
3. Lyrics of song written by Statement Provider in memory of Chassidy Charlie
The use of round brackets ( ) in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. The use of a strikethrough mark indicates where an error was found in the original transcription. Susan Grant, Legal Assistant with National Inquiry made all amendments on May 29th, 2019 at Vancouver, British Columbia. Ms. Grant listened back to the source audio recording of the proceeding to make the amendments.
--- Upon commencing on Thursday, September 28, 2017

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** This is Caitlin Hendrickson with the National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, speaking on the record with Mike Robertson. He has travelled here from the south side in B.C., just south of Burns Lake. And we're here in Smithers, B.C. today on September 28th, 2017.

Mike, you're here to voluntarily give your statement in the matter of missing women that you've had involvement with over the years, including Chassidy Charlie as well as Doreen Jack who disappeared with her family. Present with us is Barb Sevin (ph)? Sorry?

**MS. BARB SEVIGNY:** Sevigny.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Sevigny, sorry. Health Manager with the National Inquiry.

And so your statement is going to be audio recorded today and you've also indicated to us that you're okay with us videotaping your statement.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Yes.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Can you please confirm you're in agreement?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Yeah, I agree.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Okay. Thank you.

So you can start off wherever you like about what you have
MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I've been around the Cheslatta people since I was a teenager. (Inaudible) (My wife, I mean) my dad had a ranch in Grassy Plains. I heard (hired) a lot of the men to tell my (inaudible) (cowboy for him and put up hay). And ultimately I got acquainted with a new Chief that was elected in 1981.

I -- one -- just a short story, one Sunday afternoon I went to the dump. Back then (it was just an open-pit dump) I just making big dump. And I backed up there. It was a Sunday afternoon and I -- to unload some stuff. And I looked around and here's old maps, old documents, old correspondence all to do with the Cheslatta Carrier Nation. And I started picking it up and I -- it was all about the flood and the dislocation of those people. So I gathered it all up and I knew that Albert George (ph) had been elected Chief the day before. As it turned out, the old Chief, he just took all this stuff and threw it in the dump.

So anyway, I went back and gave all this stuff to Albert and he started telling me the story of the eviction. And to make a long story short, he asked me to help him and I've been with him ever since.

So over the years I've became very -- well, I became one of them and I've pretty well dedicated my life...
Mike Robertson (Chastity Charlie & Doreen Jack)

to help the people out of the position they were in back then. And it's just an ongoing thing. And through my 36, 7 years I've witnessed a lot of trauma in the community and the surrounding community and the Burns Lake area, and the cases of people going missing and the violent crimes that sometimes occurred in our community and in the Burns Lake area.

I -- at one time we had a very good relationship with the RCMP and the methods and the dedication of the people back in the late -- well, in the 80s, was one of very close relationships with the Indian people, taking things on a personal level. And over the years, as more and more cases happened, I saw a pattern of disconcern, of apathy of basically going from a police force of to serve and protect and to take it serious and, you know, personal relationships and go the extra mile to investigate crimes and to, probably starting in the early 90s, of a culture of disregard and disrespect or no respect. And as more and more cases happened, not only on Cheslatta, but on the Skin Tyee and Nee Tahi Buhn, Burns Lake, (Lake Babine) like they're being -- the growing pattern of, again, lack of sufficient work on a specific case.

On the personal level, when the Jack family went missing, they -- the initial work that they did was
quite diligent, but there was a lot of leads that could have been followed up on, there was a lot of evidence that was on the reservations both sides of Stoney Creek, Cheslatta, that were never followed (through) with. It seems like it was a big invisible wall of -- you know, they would look at a case outside the reservation and do certain things to solve it. And when they came on reserve, it was like how can we close this thing the quickest.

So after the initial work on the Jack case, the work of the local and regional police just diminished into (an annual) a manual reposting of the posters and the token calls to the media and all were working on this. Every now and then media would pick up on it and cause the police to react or respond. But the real case of who done it was something that I observed it wasn't a priority with the police.

The later case of Chassidy Charlie -- and I've been on the scene of many accidents and crimes and incidences that required police to be there, and kind of frame (from) a positive force coming in onto the scene that became like why even waste our time calling these people. When Chassidy was murdered it was a particular horrific scene. I was the first on the scene and I removed all the families and stayed with the remains for quite a long period of time. And I had an opportunity to observe the
scene. And I later went back, several days later and the
body sat there for three days as they supposedly
investigated this. And they finally remove the body.

So I had to go back a few days later and let
a cleaner in the house to do the clean-up. And I'm a
photographer as well, and I was shocked at what I saw at
the scene. And without going into gory details, the
ultimate finding of the police report didn't reflect the --
what I observed and [one line redacted pursuant to Rule
55].

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can you describe a
little bit? Like I know you don't ---

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Well ---

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- want to go
into the details, but details are helpful for the Inquiry.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: The body -- Chassidy
was killed by blunt trauma, by a blow to the head, a very
brutal multiple blows that caused a lot of blood splatters.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: And when I came on the
scene, she was laying out on the floor with her face up and
her hands were laid out like this. And her face had been
completely burnt. And she had another burned area there
where some kind of fuel was placed on her and lit. And on
the floor was a carpet of magazines and newspapers laid out
just like this square, meticulously laid out. And so when I first got there with a first aid kit, I bent down and touched her hand, just first reaction with first aid is to check, see if she's still alive, but it was clear she was dead. But it struck me that her hands were really wiped (lily-white) clean. There was no -- you know, I watch a lot of Columbo, but there was -- I checked her fingers for trauma marks if she was fighting herself. Nothing. And then I thought this is really strange because she -- her clothes were spotless. There was no blood on the body whatsoever. Her clothes again were clean.

So when the police came I just gave a quick statement and later gave a more detailed one with these observations. And when I went back to let the cleaner in to clean up this one [one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. All the papers had been removed and the body. But underneath the papers was clear evidence of somebody trying to clean up the blood. Because when the papers were removed, there was rivulets of blood that hadn't dried enough and when they laid the paper down and pulled it up there was strings of paper. But it was clear that they had used just paper to try to clean it up.

But it was my conclusion that subsequent evidence that we found out later that the body -- or Chassidy was murdered on a Sunday. There was somebody that
came back into the house a day later and, in my opinion, took her body and washed it, redressed her, laid out the papers, brought fuel, poured it on her face and her belly, lit it and took off, basically trying to eliminate the evidence and burn the house down with her in it. But when they closed the door all the windows were shut. It was in January. Cold. And the fire snuffed itself out by a lack of oxygen.

So I gave a second statement reporting this [three words redacted — Rule 55] and my interpretation of what happened and the residual evidence that we found out since the body was discovered. And none of that detail ever made the official record of the case, or at least into the court as evidence.

My workmate was also listening that day and he gave a similar statement of his observations on the body. But it's my opinion ultimately that [one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55] but it was a cover-up, and when lack of any will of the police to follow up on any of this stuff, and it was real evidence, outside of the crime scene.

I'm not going to go into detail of who I -- [one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55], but the Chassidy murder was a horrible crime in itself but it was what happened after she died that was the worse crime, and how
the police (directed) dragged their investigation in -- away from the crime scene into the community. They didn't take advice from the Chief or Council at the time, the Elders. [One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

Subsequent crimes like that were not followed through with. Again, it seems like when the police come on a crime scene it's -- they look at a -- you know, the easiest way out of how do we bring this case to closure with the least amount of work. So I definitely observed that.

And I'm not at -- I'm a pretty solid guy who's steady. I don't get too shook up over things but this really, really bothered me. And it hearkens back to before that the -- when the Jack family especially came on and then when they did the early call out for people to -- with a hotline, to call in with any information you might have on the (Highway of Tears) family of terrorists. I called three times. And one time I got a call back because I and other people in the community, including our leaders, had suspicion and we wanted to give confidential statements to the police as to some suspicious men that frequent (inaudible) (Highway 16). Kind of fit the bill for a potential person that could cause people harm.

So anyway, this lady called and she was very eager to talk to me and other people there. So I went in
one day to give a statement on a arranged date. She wasn't there. So I left a message and that was never followed up on. Then this was three times that myself and other people tried to give hints or tips. That's what they were calling for. In the meantime, I think after that another 15 or so (women) went missing.

I participated in searches along Highway 16 for other victims. We had a dowser on the south side that was called out quite regularly, not by the Mounties but by the family members that went out searching for bodies. They had a good record of finding both evidence and victims, whether it was drownings or violent deaths. So I got to kind of observe from an off-reserve perspective of how the police dealt with some of these. But, again, being involved with Cheslatta for almost 40 years, I've seen a decline of the police's mentality of how they investigate a crime on the res.

And the Chief that I took all that stuff over I found at the dump, he became an extremely good friend and a mentor of mine. His name was Albert George. [One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. And the police came out to investigate. They wrote it off as a suicide because, again, it was the easier route, and [one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

So a couple weeks after that, I was going to
town. I stopped at François Lake. There's a general store there. And a friend of mine ran it. And he says, "Mike, I got something interesting to show you." He pulled out a little envelope and he put it in his hand. It was a bullet. I says, "What's that?" He says, "This is the bullet that killed Albert George." I says, "How in the hell did you get it?" He said, "The cops gave it to me as a souvenir." This is in 1985.

But that's the attitude of the frontier mentality out there. When we have a major crime at Cheslatta, special units have to come out from Prince George. And it takes hours and hours and hours. So, you know, people have to sit with the body. And when they do come out there it's like an inconvenience to them.

I attended a couple suicides -- "suicides". They were murders. Right on Highway 16. We -- I attended a scene. It was this one guy, 16-year old kid who was a very strong, vibrant, healthy guy. And he was hanging from a poplar tree with his feet on the ground, with blunt trauma to his body and his head. And they wrote it off as suicide. And regardless of what sex you are, it seems like that's the easy way out for the police. If that would have been a white guy or, you know, from a prominent family in Burns Lake, they'(d) have would call(ed) out the special units.
The -- a lot of times they basically leave it to the community to accept what happens, whether it's murder or suicide or questionable death, they have this attitude that we'll let the Indians work it out with themselves. We got too much else off-reserve to deal with.

So, again, where the police used to come in to the Cheslatta office and sit down and take their hats off and either make a cup of coffee now for the last 20 plus years, they walk through the door with flak jackets on. Well (Boy), you can't pat them on the back or touch them, they're just so rigid.

We've had some good constables, Native and non-Native, come through Burns Lake. And just about the time they get a level of comfort and respect in the community, they're gone. Transferred. The last one who came, and she's up here now, she took the (inaudible) [name redacted pursuant to Rule 55] case and reopened it, attempted to. Did a meticulous amount of evidence collection, re-interviews. She actually found the car [five words redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. She went to her senior people in Prince George and they didn't want to open the case because it would be too much manpower and cost, when she had clear evidence.

And, you know, again, that's what we put up with. And I'm sure other people have similar stories of
the reservation way or outside the reservation.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So I just want to

    go back to Chassidy for a moment. [Two lines redacted

    pursuant to Rule 55]?

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [One line redacted

    pursuant to Rule 55].

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yes.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [One line redacted

    pursuant to Rule 55].

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: [One line redacted

    pursuant to Rule 55].

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: They take any

    documentation that a person wants to provide and [one line

    redacted pursuant to Rule 55] ---

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- to bring to

    your statement because ---

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Sure.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- [one line

    redacted pursuant to Rule 55]; right? So ---

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- [two lines

    redacted pursuant to Rule 55] -- your statement didn't make

    it ---
MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- to the trial, so I mean, that -- if that's something that you'd like to submit after, but ---

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- you know.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Sure.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: We definitely would accept that. I was also just wondering if you knew Chassidy or the Jack family before?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Oh, yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yeah?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can you talk about ---

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I knew Chassidy her whole life. Chassidy was an extremely (bright), very beautiful young gal. I have kind of related all this ugliness in this song I'd like to sing for you. [One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: [One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. The -- Chassidy was basically a hobo living in her own home. She always had a backpack going to
school or even in the summertime. Her backpack always included her -- like she didn't carry a comb -- purse with your personal toiletries in it but also a couple pairs of change of clothes because she never knew where she was going to spend the night. Extremely (quiet) quite. Absolutely not a partier at all. A wanderer around. Very meticulous health keeper. Just a wonderful gal whose dream was to become a veterinarian. And she lived in this trailer house by herself, her mother and her mother's boyfriend lived in Burns Lake. And she was bothered a lot by her brother who was (ultimately) also convicted of a crime. She was 17. He was 16 when all this happened.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** How -- sorry, what was her [sic] name? If you don't remember, that's okay.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Yeah, I didn't have much to do with him. I would come to work at 7:00 in the morning every day during working hours. And without question, Chassidy would be outside the front door waiting for the bus. So this happened for the last two years of her life. So I got to know her on a personal level a lot better because we had -- (one on one) went on long talks and I was kind of the historian of Cheslatta and I would always share stuff with her and encouragement and everything. But she wanted to be a vet. She wanted to go beyond the reservation and get the hell out of the life she
was in. And she was close to it.

   So, yes, I knew Chassidy from the time she was born. [Sixty lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

   **MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** How old was Chassidy?

   **MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Seventeen (17).

   **MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** And what year was this?

   **MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** 2011.

   **MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Can I check in for a minute? You doing okay?

   **MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Can you check in?

   **MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Yeah, I just want to check in with you.

   **MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Oh, I'm all right.

   **MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Okay. I'm just going to do that every now and again.

   **MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** So the Major Crime Unit came out from Prince George. This happened I'd say 4:00, quarter after 4:00. They didn't get there until late, late that night. And they -- the body stayed in that house at least (I believe) until Saturday, three days. And they had ample time to follow some leads. And, you know, we gave statements the next day, all of us that attended the scene.

   We gave follow-up statements when we learned
more about what happened. The -- I'm not questioning what
the Major Crimes did on the scene, but when it came back to
the court and the evidence presented, it was cut and dried.
It was clearly a murder [one line redacted pursuant to Rule
55].

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: But, you know, I've
shared this story with other people and I've had
discussions with other people and other leaders in other
communities. And it's a similar situation in a lot of
cases of the lackadaisical attitude of police
investigation. And when they get a tip or a lead it's
like, well, we'll do it next week. That was all said. We
had a guy from another band shooting down on a guy on a
canoe on the lake. And so the guy on the canoe gets
running up to the house and calls the cops. Say, "Hey,
this crazy guy shooting at me." Police says, "Oh, don't
worry about it. We'll be out there Monday morning." And
the ferry's on call 24 hours a day, especially to emergency
vehicles. All you have to do is call now. But the
attitude is oh, there's another Indian crime, another
debacle on the south side. We'll get there when we get
there.

The south side is a haven for people that
want to get away from something or hide or be alone or
reclusive. There's only two ways that you can drive into
the south side and they're quite far away, or there's a
ferry. Well, when you commit a crime, that's the last
place you want to be is on the ferry.

Yeah, the -- you know, we can give any
excuses we want for the logistics and where we live or the
geographic area or the transportation problems, but the
fact is, I've seen crimes committed against white people
and I've observed the process that goes through when those
-- when it happens to them. And there's no comparison.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I was going to work in
May this year. I came through Southbank at 8:00 in the
morning and I passed a pickup that was parked right in the
middle of the road and that's the rural country there. And
there was a guy just sitting there. He just kind of waved
me on. Anyways, when I looked in my rear view mirror,
here's a body behind the pickup. Holy shit. Because I
knew who it was, I thought.

So I went back and walked up to him and it
wasn't who I thought -- just thought. It was a white guy.
And this was, again, 8:00 in the morning. But it turned
out to be a good friend of mine. He was face down. I
didn't recognize him. But he had happened to become
friends with the ex-wife of this guy and this guy was very
jealous and he shot him in the head one time. But the police didn't get out there until 8:00 that night. They didn't remove the body until about 10:30, the Major Crimes Unit, you know. They did arrest the guy and he's -- but anyway. That was one instance of why, good lord, I can walk from Prince George to Burns Lake by now.

So anyways, we do have challenges there but the biggest -- there's a lot of things that could be done to give people confidence that they do have a police force that is competent and willing to do stuff, but it's -- doesn't exist. And, again, I've spent most of my life on Highway 16 and in this area and I've seen just a complete breakdown of any humanity in the police generally.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Again, there's some good people but they're squelched. Did (To) get a kick (ass) out of constable that we had in Burns Lake, (who's) he's here now --

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: -- that understood the piss-poor investigation that happened back in 2005 and was compelled to follow up on some of these leads and it became clear that there was a lot of credible evidence out there. And when she went to her superiors in Prince George, they told her to forget about it. How many times that happen on
Highway 16 with the ladies?

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** So I just have a question going back to Chassidy for a moment because you seem to have known her pretty well.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Yeah.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** I just want to know, was there anybody in her life that tried to intervene, support? Were there any social workers? Anything like that?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Chassidy was a very independent lady. She had -- okay. In Grassy Plains -- she went to school in Grassy Plains, which at that time went up to Grade 10. And then she had to go to high school in Burns Lake.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** M'hm.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** So she had to catch the ferry. And at the Grassy Plains school she was picked on and bullied by male and female kids. And it was sad. It was not just pulling her hair but slapping around and physical, very physical. And Chassidy was tough, but when you're ganged up on it's -- pretty soon it's overwhelming. She never got the support she needed at Grassy. She never got the protection that should be accorded to any kid there. There's probably 90 to 100 students at Grassy from Grade 1 to Grade 10. She was such
a nice gal. She had a lot of friends of teachers, but the
assailers or the perpetrators were the ones that got the
attention in Chassidy's case, not the victim.

You know, they -- limited people there and
they would have to deal with the hoodlums and the victim
was basically, "Oh, I'm all right. I'm all right." You
know, tough Chassidy. But she also didn't have any home
support either to -- she lived by herself. She had a
couple lady neighbours, Marlene (ph) being one, and Marlene
was like a mother to her but she lived in separate houses
and Marlene could only do so much.

She had a couple foster mothers, non-Native
on Cheslatta Lake that really mentored her and worked
closely with her but they were 20 miles away.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Were those
arranged by the Ministry?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah. She had good
relations with her foster mother who really cared and went
the extra effort to look after Chassidy, stopping in and
seeing her from time-to-time, but she was a ranch lady who
had other kids and ---

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know her
name by any chance?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: [Foster mother].

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. Do you know
how old she was when she was in foster care?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Well, pretty well --
I'm just guessing from age 7 or 8 until 15, 16.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And then she moved on her own?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: But that she still had contact with her mom ---

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Oh, yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- throughout this time?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Oh, her mother, yes, and her foster.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. Do you know anything about her mom, like if she went to residential school or any kind of historical trauma there?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Well, again, the Cheslatta people were forcibly relocated in the 50s. So they left a very tight community, a very tight circle of life style (down) at Cheslatta Lake. They were thrown up into the Wetsodin (ph) territory and basically forgot about. Everybody looked after themselves. They lost their culture, their -- again, their cycle of life. They became -- well, being traumatized, they turned to alcohol, drugs. So the dysfunction, especially like when I started there in
the early 80s was extremely bad.

It was -- to this day there's still no community centre in Cheslatta. To drive to all the reserves it's 170 mile trip. So the -- Geraldine (ph), her mother, was kind of tossed around her whole life. And -- yeah, Geraldine was a victim of this life for sure, subsequent -- the community trauma that everybody went through and is still going through today.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Does -- did Chassidy's father live with them?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** No, he lived in Burns Lake.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** What's his name?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** His name is [Chassidy’s father].

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Okay.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** And he was actually charged with sexual abuse and I believe convicted. I'm not sure. But when Chassidy died, people were surprised to find out he was the father. It was always this thing that [Man 1] was the father. So that was a surprise to everybody. [Chassidy’s father]’s from Lake (Babine) Beni (ph).

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Do you have any thoughts on what could have helped Chassidy with preventing
her death?

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I guess more personal visits in kind of a non-regimented way to where she could expect visits without having to go through the process of making an appointment. Again, we live in a pretty isolated rural area out there.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can you specify visits with who?

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: With some kind of a counsellor or ---

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: --- social worker.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

    MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: We have drug and alcohol workers that are primarily based out of Prince George, 180 miles away. They basically work 9:00 to 5:00 including travel time. We see -- the Mental Health Council is in the drug and alcohol people there. They -- we need counsellors, drug and alcohol, social workers available 24/7 like any major city has.

    We're, again, limited by the ferry but, you know, the (Carrier Sekani) Family Services get a lot of resources to implement these types of programs, and in the more isolated areas we suffer from, you know, lack of personnel wanting to be in those communities, and the fact
that these guys 200 live miles away. They get a call and will say, "Well, I can't help you. Go see your neighbour."

There is no -- I can't say there's no follow-up there. There is but it's well after the fact and after the threat is there.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** So what I'm hearing from you is that there's too much time between the initial call and an actual response.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Yeah. There has to be these support people in the community.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** M'hm.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** In our case, especially with limited access. And there's got to be some means of compensating them for that. You know, don't just pay them a standard rate. Better compensate them for living in a challenging area. It's expensive. But also, support them with an atmosphere where they can do the work.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** M'hm.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** The counsellors are always looking for places to have AA meetings or one-on-one meetings, and to find a place like this is impossible. It's like, "Oh, I'll meet you down at the cafe or I can come over at 5:00 tomorrow." Well, there is no place they can go in that they feel safe and confidential. But, I mean, the transportation of course to get from Chassidy's
house to wherever, you know, it's tough.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** So I just want to mention that we've been going for about 45 minutes now. I'm not limiting our time. I just was wondering if we could take about a five-minute break.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Sure.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Okay.

--- Upon recessing

--- Upon resuming

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** So, you know, there's no prescribed remedy, but there's definitely pathways forward to improve the situation to make it more accountable to the people they're supposed to serve and not to their bosses or their -- you know, they're working for the people.

You know, we just mentioned that the social workers, the counsellors that get their degrees and, you know, get all certified and come out, and they generally work with younger people, are absolutely not trained in the real world, in the situation of, let's say, Cheslatta's case or if they work up north or on the coast or down south. There's challenges and there's an environment where you have to wear the right coat or the right boots or
you're going to fail. So the cookie-cutter approach of the academic world needs to be challenged and there has to be like an apprentice-type way of you get a Masters in social work or whatever. By golly, that doesn't kick in in full force until you do a year or two of apprenticeship and go and see what the real application needs to be out there.

Again, the poor students go through the system and is indoctrinated and has a passion for -- let's just keep it at social work, that when they come out of the real world, they're more likely to fail in two or three years and burn out than they are -- and, you know, that's the pity of them going through that trauma, but they also don't deliver the services that are required out there and there's gaps. But in (Of the) Chassidy's it's all (fell) through. So some kind of ongoing training or exposure to the real world has to become -- has to be implemented.

Because the more -- you know, how smart you are and how dedicated you are to the human race, there's communities that I wouldn't even want to sit in unless I knew exactly what I was getting into.

The last two drug and alcohol counsellors we had, again, what little time they did spend in the community, the communication issue, they -- English was their second or third language. We didn't (couldn’t) understand them and the clients the same way. They finally
just give up because they couldn't understand or they
couldn't communicate with these -- again, the young,
bright-eyed wellbeing kids, but I'm sorry, when you're
placed in a community, have special skills beyond what you
learned in the curriculum. Prepare these people because
it's not a nice place a lot of times. And the challenges
go beyond, you know, what they're prepared for, the
counsellors. And they do -- their prescription is
basically take an aspirin and call me in a couple days.

So the system is letting us down and the
reality of -- again, let's just stick to the reservation,
is not good.

The -- there's a lot more that could be done
that reflects the reality of communities that they're
supposed to serve. And it goes -- you know, again, there's
some very well meaning people in the executive of the
health and social services delivery, but there's a lot of
hierarchy in those organizations that kind of go like that
into some of these issues. They -- a lot of times they're
unwilling to invest the extra effort it takes to correct
the problem, rather than the reactionary issue after
Chassidy's dying or another woman goes missing on the
highway.

But it -- you know, it's -- you know, your
climate (client) is the Chassidys of the world but it's
also generational with the parents and the grandparents and the situation in the communities. Cheslatta's an extremely blessed community with resources and good water and like lots of nice land and opportunities. Anybody that wants to work in Cheslatta can. So there's not a lot of poverty but there's a lot of -- again, the generation and dysfunction of how these kids were raised and how their parents were raised.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Can we jump over to what you('d like) brought to discuss about the Jack family? Unless you have more to add about Chassidy, you're welcome to -- if there's something I haven't asked you or --

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** No, I -- your questions on what can be done to possibly help the -- I wasn't ready for that one but if I did get some stuff out of there that -- we have issues with, again, the frontline staff, so that's definitely an issue that has to be dealt with, acknowledged and dealt with.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** M'hm.

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** I don't care how many degrees or what is it you that you have on your name, if you don't got the personality and the dedication, that the -- you can't deliver.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** I agree with that.
MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: You have to have dedicated people (inaudible) (like me, you know, I don’t have a degree). But I dedicated my life to this and you -- we went through the process of hiring a director of operations in the last month. Oh my god, there are people from all over the world applying for this.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M’hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: There was as many as (Resumes) a mile long, degrees and experience. But when it came down to the hands-on interviews, it was scary.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M’hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Of what these people were like under their skin, not just on paper or picture. It's like whoa. So we were very blessed in finding the right person and the guy is a dream come true but we were lucky.

So the challenge of getting qualified and dedicated -- you need dedicated people before you need qualified. You know -- sorry, you need these degrees to do this, but sometimes it's Granny Jack can provide more counselling without a degree than Joe Blow with the fricking masters ---

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M’hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: --- or PhD.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. That's
something I forgot to mention before we started. I am a
social worker. So but I want to say, like I totally agree
with you. Like, there's a lot of people that I've met and,
you know, went to school with where I could tell weren't
necessarily suited for that. So, yeah, you're right about
the dedication. We (You) have to be ready to do the work.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And that's part of
why I'm here with the Inquiry too is -- and I've noticed is
the passion to want to make change happen. And it all
starts with dedication, not necessarily your credentials.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Good. And God bless
dedicated social workers. I admire you people. Sometimes
us on the front lines we think we have it bad, but I have
all the time in the world to listen to dedicated social
workers trying to make a change ---

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: --- or a dedicated
foster parent. There's -- Corrina, our Chief, makes a huge
effort every year to honour the caregivers. They have a
special day at Cheslatta Lake where the first and foremost
people that Cheslatta people honour are the caregivers and
the social workers. It's a huge celebration every year.
But Cheslatta also goes a long ways to educate the people
but you have to want to be -- want to learn the history and
the dynamics of a community. It's not that they're trying
to cover anything up. We want the blood and guts laid out
in front of you. We want the smells and the sounds and the
-- it's a great place to live but it's also a challenge.

The Jack family, this was back in the late
80s. Times are different now, but back then the cops drove
purple police cars. We -- that was, of course, mass event
with two adults and two kids that went missing just out of
the blue. But, again, the police did a huge investigation
initially. But then it's -- it was a very compelling case
but it also took a lot of work.

And when your attention gets diverted on
another case and then it was the next summer the Oka thing
come up. That's another thing, come to think of it, 1990,
a year later was an incredible trying time with the police
and the non-Native people. When the Oka crisis was going
on -- they called it crisis -- it affected every person in
our community in one way or the other. And it impacted how
-- you know, looking back on it and having this discussion,
that's when the mentality of the police force changed from
friends of the Indian people to, wait, check this out first
before I come to have a cup of coffee with you. And then
pretty soon it was the flak jackets and the rigid. I'm not
going to blame it all on the Oka thing at that time but it
definitely mobilized the non-Natives, the rednecks. And
generally, a police or service person is a different breed of cats. They're not sitting around playing Rumbly Pigs or, you know, mounting daisies in a scrapbook. These guys are tough.

We had (no) four female police back then at home. These were two old boys that were tough, you know, some non-military. But when the Oka (event) happened and it challenged and -- well, the (inaudible) and that (the law that occurred out in Quebec and I) went out there shortly after that. The -- that's -- there's a link there. The humanity of the RCMP diminished a lot.

We -- at that time we were trying to get our feet on the ground with the economic development. The couple that went missing for -- especially Doreen, I was closest to her than any of them, she worked for me. We were a team in the office. But anyway, we're working with some local contractors. And Marlene (ph) and some of the (inaudible), and we were developing a really good relationship. And almost overnight in Cheslatta (July of) 1990 that all changed into the whole (fucking) Indian thing. (God damn and the bitchin’ and whining about all this. ‘Get a job!’ you know, well, that really hurt us. And that took a longer time to recover.) Between minor battles -- even John (ph) got overwhelmed, (inaudible), and that took a long time to recover. And that's kind of when the
investigation fell off the tracks too. Again, the media would bring it up from time to time. The cops would make the standard phone calls to me and the family. And a couple times they'd come to meetings asking questions about -- it's kind of a flavour of the day, every five to seven years they do a front-page article, where is the Jack family? The reporters themselves do more digging than the cops do.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** What was Doreen like?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Doreen was -- if you got to know Marlene (ph), they're twins. Real outgoing, toothy grin, long, beautiful, black hair, just kind of a dreamer but a hopeful person, willing to invest time and sacrifice to make her community a better spot. Loved her kids, loved her -- loved Ronny and she was a big part of the community. About my age, a little younger. Yeah, Doreen was a good person.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Did you know Ronny well?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** I didn't know him as good as I knew Doreen. Ronny was maybe (I believe) younger than Doreen. I can't remember. But I knew Ronny's older brothers very well.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Did you know them
together as a couple?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Well ---

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: What their relationship was like?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: --- yeah. Their relationship was good. They were just almost like teenage lovers with these two kids that the grandparents looked after more than they did. Ronny was kind of a partier. Doreen was the more of a serious ---

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: --- housekeeper type gal. But they were very happy-go-lucky kids, probably more so than any couple on the res at that age, by far. Adventuresome. Dedicated workers. When we built the Band office in '83, he was one of my favourite workers. But he was a lot quieter than Doreen or Ronny was quieter than any of his brothers but a real prankster type guy.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Fun to be around. You could trust him. And Doreen you could trust. I knew Doreen's father extremely well. He was a very good friend of mine.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yeah, who was her father?

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Did you know ---

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: (Inaudible) (Two-day ph) Charlie.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- know her mom?

Did you know her mom?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Katie (ph). She was not living on the reserve when I started working there that I knew. Real quiet, mousy type gal, had the alcohol problems for a long time. Charlie did too when he was younger but he sobered up.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know if they went to residential school?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Doreen did. I don't know about Ronny (ph).

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know where Doreen went?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Beg your pardon?

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know which school she went to?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: (Lejac) Little Jack.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Charlie didn't go to school as far as I know.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know if Ronny did?
MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I don't know.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So you wouldn't know if his family did.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: He had a lot of age -- that's -- he would have been (very) fairly young if he did.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Because he was about 25, 27. So he might have.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: He was born in around 1960, so it's likely.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I know his brothers did.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Did you know ---

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: His oldest brother was a foster parent, (wound up) being raised in Kamloops.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: But his little brother did go to a res school.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I was going to say, did you know their boys very well?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: No. I've never had kids so I don't get too close or pay much attention to kids.
MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: When people show me a picture of their baby, it's like ah, forget it.

(Laughter)

No, I -- you know, they were just kids.

"(Shut up) Jack, we got work to do." No, I didn't know the kids that well.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So what led up -- what -- what are the events that you understand that led up to their disappearance?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I don't know. I think Ronny may have dabbled in drugs. Doreen might have smoked a little dope but I think Ronny was being a kind of a happy-go-lucky party guy, got in over his head with somebody. But that's just my -- I don't know. There was a lot of talk of, you know, drug or debts -- issues with Ronny, both in (inaudible) (Sikas (ph)), Don (ph) (Stoney) Creek and Prince George. Ronny was a good worker but he had a weakness for diversions, drugs and booze.

Yeah, it's [T.] who was the last guy to speak with him and [identifying information redacted]. I was talking to him this morning. He's the last one to talk to Ronny. And he figures he got into a bad crowd or owed somebody money. And Doreen was a fighter, even more so than Ronny.
MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: And she would have been a handful in a challenging situation. But he got a phone call about -- I don't know, it was late, 11:00 at night or so, and [T.] says he was suspicious of somebody just off the -- you know, offering work to his whole family. But anyway, that's the last he ever talked to him.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: What was the last contact you had with them?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Well, it's -- gosh, I don't know. Doreen was working.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Was it before they moved?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I wasn't working at the Band office at that time but I lived right next to them. I think Doreen was probably more in the community than Ronny. I don't know.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. That's fine.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I can't remember.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And so after you learned of their disappearance, what happened next for you?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: I came back to Cheslatta but just a couple months later. I was only 20 (in the community) but I know that we answered questions...
from the police. They did an investigation at that time. There was a phone call from an unknown party or people to the residents at Stoney Creek that would happen to get recorded. And the cops came out and played that tape over and over and over again in early 1990, a few months after they went missing. And they came back a couple years later and played it again. And I honestly can't remember what the call was about but nobody can place the voice.

Ronny's mother is -- she was a different gal. Mabel. You met her. And I('m) kind of (reluctant) elected not to talk too much about Mabel on tape [one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. And she definitely wasn't involved in the Ronny disappearance, [two lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. Yeah.

So I know we're not going to talk about [name redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. [One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. Anyway.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Is there anything that -- again, going kind of to the same question that I had before, is there anything that you think would have helped the family?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Well, back then it was -- there wasn't a whole lot of hope in the community. There was not much going on. We had odd jobs here and there, nothing regular. There was a lot of depression in...
the community at that time. 1989 was some tough times. The Chief at the time was just this domineering bully of a guy and he didn't have a whole lot of respect in the community. There was -- quite a few people just moved away. There was a lot of dysfunction back there. I left an office. But I came back in that spring in 1990.

We didn't have a social work people at that time. We had agencies where you had to generally go in and make an appointment if you have an issue. And home visits back then to -- what I recall were pretty few and far between. It had to be something major to compel a social worker to come out to your house.

Housing was a huge issue. I worked for the Tribal Council in the early 80s and we did a housing survey. And it was off the charts third world. We went to every community. The last time (Cheslatta) I remember being the most horrific of 15, 20 people living in 2 or 3-bedroom houses. Stoney Creek was another bad one.

When I started at Cheslatta, not one house had electricity, water and sewer in only 1 house out of 25 houses. They had to haul their water. No roads. When the people came out of Cheslatta Lake, they had some money from the compensation, they bought their own places. They were generally just rat shit beat down places that the white people couldn't sell to anybody else except the Cheslatta.
So that's why they're scattered over creation.

So when I got there, again, there was no water and sewer. Electricity in a couple places. Some people had electricity but the hydro hung out (unhooked) them because they couldn't pay the bills. So that's one of the first things I got involved in with the new Chief was putting water and sewer in the homes. And then almost overnight the change in both the family lives and the people on the -- kids attending school improved immediately.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** M'hm. Is there anything that you would like to see from the Inquiry that would honour Chassidy and Doreen and her family, so some kind of outcome or something that you want to see happen?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Get rid of the Indian Act. That's a -- the Indian Act, you know, they beat their chest over account of 150. This year I was -- and this is also a 143rd or 4th anniversary of the Indian Act to people.

I don't know if I mentioned it, but when I took all that stuff from the dump over to Albert that night, he asked me to help him with it. I says, "No." He didn't have any money and I was broke. Just got married the month before. But I always keep in touch with Albert. I'm curious. I was the historian. And he says, "Before you go, I got something for you." And he handed me a
little booklet. And he says, "This is our rule book. Read this thing and then come back and tell me what it says."
Albert could read but very rudimentary. So I said, "Okay. I'll read it. Sure."

Never read legislation in that kind of writing before. So I sat down that night and I started reading and it was like 23 pages long. By the time I got done with them my hands were shaking. The Indian Act. And I went back to Albert that next day and said, "I'll help you."

Oh, yeah. I always wanted to write my memoires and I think it's going to be entitled "The Man that Went to the Dump and Never Returned." Because beyond this, the historical and the interest of -- that I had in the people, it was reading that Indian Act that compelled me to make changes.

You know, you see stuff downstairs, moccasins and crafts that -- you know, crafts. If a status Indian made this on (her) their kitchen table and tried to sell it, it's against the law. If a -- somebody goes out in their garden on the res and plants turnips and puts a little stand alongside the road, that's against the law. You need the Indian agent's permission to sell these. Any kind of commerce on the res is against the law without the permission of Queen Elizabeth.
The housing situation, we were lucky. We worked many years to get state-of-the-art water system at Cheslatta. But the depression, the hopelessness of these people, that's what this song is about. It's about the Ministry -- the residential system and the Indian Act and how they -- it's so carefully designed to keep a people down. There's absolutely no allowances for opportunity or self improvement, individual type.

When you -- that should be required reading in any curriculum from high school on up is having a course on the Indian Act, an interpretation of it, and getting anecdotes from people that have lived under the Indian Act and that understands the -- it's ugly. It's absolutely horrible.

My dad, when he first came up here in 1973, he leased hay (land) then from a couple of old, old Indian ladies, both of them blind. It's actually Doreen and Marlene's (ph) auntie. But this time (went on), these ladies just grew to trust him and, you know, they couldn't say (see) how much hay he got but they trusted him and dad was a very honest man.

So one day he gets a call. It's the Indian agent. He says, "Have you been buying hay from Granny Camorse (ph)?" He says, "Yeah." He says, "Well, I just want to let you know that's -- it's against the law that
you do that." He says, "You have to buy it from me and then I'll give her the money because if you end up (inaudible) (you’re a buck selling) this stuff you got to give a quarter to Queen Elizabeth to be held in trust in Ottawa for the benefit -- use and benefit of the Band as a whole." So he told him to "Fuck off. I'm not doing that." And he continued to buy hay from Granny until she died. But anyways, just an example.

In your more rural community it's a little easier there. But when you try commercial activities -- you know, there's lots of talk about tax breaks and everything. But the reality here is you need -- again, I make a joke out of Queen Elizabeth but when I started everything was in the right of Canada and Her Majesty the Queen. It's changed a bit now but in that song I talk about that.

But I don't know. We need investment in the communities too, you know. The governments, provincially and federally have taken so much off the land that they've come up with these little revenue share packages that are around. Take a sort (third) of a mineral royalty and divide it up amongst 25 bands. So you take your little $312 off of a fricking billion dollar mine and that satisfies some of their legislative stuff.

Got involved in a reconciliation with
British Columbia right now over the Kenney Dam and all the flooding. How Canada has made close to $50 billion off of our water through limiting power sales. And the offer that Alcan has put on the table is laughable. But I'm just talking to that reporter downstairs. It's the 20th anniversary of the (inaudible) (97) agreement where the government cancelled (inaudible) in the second phase of the hydro project. And Alcan took them to court and settled. And part of the settlement was the Nechako River, (they gave Alcan) gave Alcan a cave out, gave the entire river. A private corporation, they gave them our river. The second biggest treaty (tributary) tied to the biggest salmon river in the world belongs to a private company. The 120,000 acres that flooded in our territory is -- we (re)diverted. They used to go east. Now that river runs west through turbines and Alcan makes 100 million bucks a year selling power. What do we get? Nothing.

I can honestly say that British Columbia reconciliation that we're involved in is incredibly progressive and open-minded. And sorry. They have admitted they did wrong. And ultimately they'll come to terms of settlement that is sort of there (fair), except we still don't have our river. But that's by no means the case in other communities in B.C. or across Canada.
The reconciliation process is definitely something that has to be there (done) but you have to be ready yourself as a community to accept that. You have to have honest leadership. God, there's so much corruption and, you know, all across the globe. And sometimes the corruption in First Nation communities far exceeds Idi Amin of (or) Joseph Stalin. I mean, god, it's sick. I mean, we have too many (two neighbouring) bands that are going through that right now.

So when you're talking healing communities, it's -- there's a lot of layers in a community big and small. And that's, you know, the Indian Act kind of dictates the Indian Act governance of Chief and Council elections, custom elections. They don't address any social things at all in the Indian Act basically. It's all economic. And retaining control over the Indian people. Absolutely nothing social or schoolish in the Indian Act.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Shit. If there is money (revenue) to be made off the reservation, Queen Elizabeth wants her share. And to try to get that money back from the capital accounts in Ottawa, and every band has it, you got to go through freaking horrible process (process) to do that.

Indian Affairs were at one time -- and you
might find this hard to believe, but back in the 80s and early 90s they were extremely sensitive to the histories on the res. They worked with us. They helped us. They had engineers. They had -- the social workers weren't part of if but when they devolved and re-centered all of Indian Affairs offices in Vancouver, we haven't had much to do with them since.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm.

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: The social agencies that are formed over the last 20, 25 years have done a great job establishing a presence, but there's a lot of gaps in that. There's a lot of issues with over-administration or over-staffing of the hierarchy and not to putting enough attention to the deliveries to help the communities is a big problem, especially in the geographic area that we are under. The CFS is based out of Prince George, but they go all way to (inaudible) out east here or west. You know, it's a huge area.

        Anyway -- what can be done? Get some reality. Yeah, anyway, I could go on about that.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you want to share your song now?

MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Okay. Yeah, I got to get home. If I leave now I'll catch the 7:30. Here, you can (I) see the (that) picture. (Inaudible) (Just got to
look at it while I’m singing this.)

This is the segue about -- what our
discussion was the reservations. This is not a perfect
(pretty) song. It's not nice. It's a mean, tough song
that's as mean and ugly and tough as the reservation is.
And I'll sing the long version but I have a short version.

Stephen Harper apologizes -- stupid (to all
the people) in 2006. Oh, I'm (he's) so sorry. I got to do
something. I thought I had it in. (Lots of headlines.)
(Women keep dying.) The Chassidys keep (inaudible) (trying
and a lot of Chassidys fail).

(Mr. MIKE ROBERTSON performs a song)

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** That was the hardest
thing (hard to sing.)

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Thank you. Is
there anything else you'd like to share before I turn off
the camera?

**MR. MIKE ROBERTSON:** Well, I honour people
like you guys that are fighting for the Chassidys in the
world, the hope and energy and passion of the Chassidys who
put their honour. And they got to go beyond again, they
got to honour them beyond plastering the trees with posters
of these beautiful ladies. So I honour you guys and all
the people that are working on this confines and all the
people out there that are working their butts off and --
but it takes a big movement to finally enact things. And
you can't do it overnight, but by golly, you can
acknowledge what's wrong now and slowly, patiently make it
right.

It's a generational thing. It's not a five-year program we're talking about or -- it's a -- takes all
sides, all governments, from the community which includes
the families and takes the responsibility, people, because
some of this responsibility rests with the guardians in the
families, going out to the community, government, to the
village of -- municipalities, the provincial and the
national governments, because we definitely got problems
here. There's been some positive movements sometimes.
There's this transportation thing but it all starts up here
too. You need change at the community level and -- yeah,
anyway. Thank you.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Thank you.

--- Upon adjourning
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Janice Gingras, Legal Transcriptionist, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

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Janice Gingras

October 16, 2017