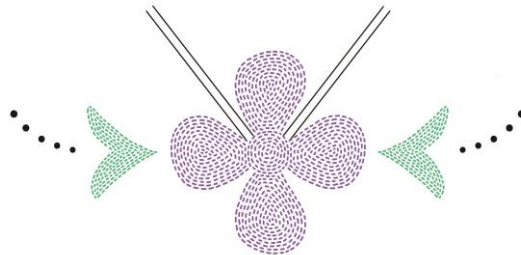


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta**



PUBLIC

Wednesday November 8, 2017

**Statement - Volume 92
Brent Burnstick,
In relation to Denise Burnstick & Relative 1**

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

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NOTE 1:

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."

NOTE 2:

The use of square 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. Amendments were completed by listening to the source audio recording of the proceeding and were made by Bryana Bouchir, Public Inquiry Clerk with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ, April 24th 2018 at Vancouver, BC.

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1

2

Edmonton, Alberta

3

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, November 8th, 2017, at

4

3:27 p.m.

5

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So that is

6

recording, and we are recording there as well. Okay. So

7

for the record, this is Kerrie Reay, statement taker with

8

the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous

9

Women and Girls at Edmonton, Alberta, and the date is

10

November the 8th, 2017, and we are starting this statement

11

at 3:27. Today I am speaking with Brent Burnstick. He

12

resides on the Alexander First Nation Reserve and is from

13

the Cree tribe. And, Brent, you are here today voluntarily

14

and agree to being video-taped?

15

MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yes.

16

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And today we're

17

hearing your truth for the -- your sister, Denise

18

Burnstick, who was murdered in 1979.

19

MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Who I believe to be

20

murdered.

21

MS. KERRIE REAY: Who you believe to be

22

murdered. Is she missing?

23

MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: She was missing, but

24

now she's passed on.

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

2 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** She passed on 1979.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And your [Relative
4 1] in 2015.

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah. She went
6 missing, but due to some -- some -- other issues, and then
7 she was found.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

9 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Found -- but there's
10 still kind of a scary -- scary issue.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Because we -- we heard
13 of all -- well, we read stories, we seen news on TV and
14 stuff about what happens to some of the women out there,
15 and for a young girl of this -- being exposed, maybe,
16 to -- to something totally new, right, like, where she
17 lived is just, like, isolation, so -- and coming out to
18 something new could have maybe damaged or heard her more
19 and totally not aware of surroundings and whatever else,
20 right?

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So why don't we start with
22 your sister, and why don't you tell us about growing up in
23 your family?

24 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Well, for myself, I'm
25 a Cree man in my mid-50s. There's a family of seven. Now

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 there's only a family of six because we lost our late
2 sister in 1979. We -- we lost both our parents. They both
3 passed on. They're in the spirit world. My father in 1983
4 passed away due to freezing, mother passed away 2005 due to
5 health complications or health issues, and they were -- I
6 have to say there's a number of factors that play into
7 this -- to this issue of what happens to us in regards to
8 murder, missing, or other things in regards to child
9 welfare, and some of it, I -- I think, has to do with each
10 individual themselves, but again, it's about the other
11 thing that are being -- might as well say forced on to you,
12 coerced, because you are coerced of accept things, and if
13 you refuse them, you're still coerced in another way.

14 So this puts a -- a lot of a -- men, women,
15 and children in unpredictable situations, and one -- one of
16 them I go back to is colonization. Number one is
17 colonization. That -- that's the main factor that -- that
18 hurts our people today. I see it because my family is
19 trying to decolonize themselves from it, to not
20 participating in the system, because it's a broken system,
21 the system in regards to child welfare, the law, policing,
22 the justice, human rights, everything like that. You know,
23 there's -- it needs to be revised and looked at, and
24 we -- we as individuals like myself who are sort of -- I'm
25 knowledgeable, educated, also, but I'm not one of the

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 individuals that's chosen to go help and put input in to
2 help. We are excluded lots of times, and -- but that's one
3 of the factors.

4 The other one, too, is the church. The
5 church was supposed to be there to do what? They're
6 supposed to help bring children into what -- into the glory
7 of Christ, but in regards to me, and I have to say this, up
8 here, is I had to distance myself from the church because
9 when I got a little older, I realized that something was
10 done to me that wasn't right, and I was abused by the
11 church, by the helper; not the priest, but by the helper.
12 So I distanced myself from the church.

13 And the other thing, too, now, is the
14 justice system. We go to the police. Who is the police to
15 protect? There is -- there's a line, so it breaks. Does
16 it go in a pyramid? Who do they really protect? And
17 everything goes back to the state, the government. They
18 keep the -- it keeps nothing, responsibility, so -- and
19 that's all levels of government. You know, we can say
20 there's four, but for us as First Nations, there's
21 two: The Federal Government and our own First
22 Nation -- our own -- might as well say First Nation
23 government, and again, there -- there's other issues that
24 come, other factors. You know, it's history. The true
25 history's not being told on the -- the issue that affect

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 us, and that's what I think is affecting us today is, for
2 myself, I see it that men and women differ in some way,
3 whether -- if you can try to use a -- a -- I use balance
4 and harmony because if -- if I can't connect to the woman,
5 how can I connect to being a man? So I have to do both,
6 and if I can, then I get balance and harmony, and I
7 can -- I can relate to how a woman feels.

8 So it -- there's a lot of, like I said,
9 different factors, and the other thing is the mentality of
10 each individual on how -- how do they feel if they're
11 trustworthy, or are they worthy? And everyone is worthy.
12 You know, the other thing, too, I say, is a label. You
13 know, and how do you get labeled, people label you, like,
14 stereotypical remarks or saying you're -- you're this,
15 you're a lazy Indian, you're a lazy drunk Indian or you're
16 a bum or whatever. Those are not -- you know, because they
17 feel refused any which way to getting something -- say
18 somebody wants to advance themselves, and they go how many
19 times to go, and they're totally refused, so it goes into
20 their mind saying, well, what's -- what's my purpose of
21 going there if I'm going to be always refused? So their
22 self-esteem or ego gets knocked down, and that's -- I don't
23 follow that. I say I'm not a quitter, so I get up again.
24 I got to swallow that.

25 So it's a residential school, then the day

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 school, and then being -- you know, the justice system,
2 like, being in prison. Those are the factors, like that.
3 The policies, the laws need to be changed. Like, I spoke
4 at the pre-inquiry for murdered Indigenous women that -- I
5 think it was River Cree back in February of this year, or
6 was it last year, but I spoke, and the minister was there,
7 and I spoke out on exactly that, that the child welfare
8 laws need to be changed, the criminal justice -- Criminal
9 Code needs to be changed, child welfare and other -- other
10 things like that, right, social policies in regards to
11 denying families because if you're denying families, you're
12 putting them in that predicament of -- for these issues to
13 happen, so those have to be (indiscernible) and revised.

14 Okay. Now -- and alcohol is -- is number
15 one, and the other one, too, I say -- I see is prescription
16 pills, prescription drugs that are over the counter. Those
17 are all -- when you mix those up with your alcohol, your
18 mind is not in the right state because I know it went
19 through -- because I tried the (indiscernible) [commit
20 suicide] four times. I did. When I'm still here today
21 as -- as a man today because I swallowed that. I seen it,
22 what happened, what was going on, and I understood that it
23 wasn't me. There's something, like, a different force
24 inside of me that came out, and I'm glad it is out of me
25 today.

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Good. Good.

2 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** So those are issues,
3 and I was incarcerated, in prison, in jail because of
4 issues like, again, family breaking up, alcoholism, and the
5 different value system that is imposed on us, and -- well,
6 I'll say this. My -- my brothers and sisters listening to
7 others instead of their own parents, because that's where a
8 lot of miscommunication happens, right?

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

10 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** When you -- when
11 you -- a parent is trying to tell the -- the child is
12 truth, and then you come over here, someone else is telling
13 them, no, you can't do this, and -- some other individuals
14 are not serious, and some other individuals are trying to
15 put different things into their head. That's not right.
16 Like, totally swaying them from your teachings.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

18 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Or the -- the proper
19 way of being taught.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Right.

21 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah. Okay, now, I
22 grew up, like I said, in that area, rough, been taken away,
23 system, and then I get up to my age, and I'm back home now.
24 And so back home, my mom and my father broke up. That was
25 in the '60s, so -- my father and mother broke up, so my

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 mother found another man, and that was kind of disruptive
2 because alcoholism was involved there. I was abused and
3 certain things, physically abused, and -- our family wasn't
4 together because we were -- we were separated. We were
5 taken away by the child -- child services or child welfare
6 back in the day. Some of us went to Stony Plain, and some
7 of us went to Fort Saskatchewan, and then we never, ever
8 got back together, really, as a family. You can still see
9 it today, and -- but us younger ones came back to stay with
10 Mom and whatever, but we seen that abuse, and the older
11 ones, and once they were grandparents, and my dad, back
12 in -- on our rez, and we were staying in Edmonton at that
13 time, and that's what it is, is the different surroundings,
14 it's just like shock doctrine, I might as well say, because
15 a lot of things were new, right, as -- as an Indigenous
16 child coming from -- might as well say we were kind of
17 isolated and then coming into the city and all these new
18 things, so it's like shock doctrine.

19 So you get into different things, and then
20 the other thing is peer pressure or peer influence,
21 saying -- a friend of yours, oh, try this, it's good for
22 you, or someone is else gives you that. So that was that
23 back in the day. Like, I did things that maybe I shouldn't
24 have done. Like, I sniffed gas. I sniffed glue. I tried
25 even taking -- drinking hair spray -- not hair spray.

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 Lysol. That was not good. You know, a lot of the things
2 was introduced to me, might as well say, and -- so a lot of
3 that has a factor in how we were brought up, and -- and
4 then it has to -- I know it had a factor, like, my mom been
5 taken -- my mom and dad been taken and going to the
6 residential school.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So they both went to --

8 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Both were in the
9 residential school. My dad stayed there probably about a
10 week; my mom, longer. And when my mom left -- left us in
11 2005, like I said, she had never mentioned anything about
12 what she had went through in the residential school, so she
13 took her story with her, and we had -- I left it like that
14 until now because -- I have to speak out because I -- I do
15 not like what's happening on my First Nation let alone what
16 I hear from where my wife is from and where my children are
17 registered, that the children and women are being denied,
18 and that's not right, and that's why I speak out. I'm very
19 politically active. I speak out if I have to, and I do it,
20 out of respect. Try to be careful with that, but if
21 someone's going to try and be ornery and, you know, tough
22 to me, I have to be tough too.

23 And so they broke -- broke that up,
24 but -- but I don't know about my grandparents. That's one
25 thing I didn't -- I was not told about grandparents from

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 both sides, right, if they were in the residential school,
2 but they probably were.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Did you know your
4 grandparents?

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yes, I did. Yeah,
6 both -- both sides, and like I said, both of them were
7 involved with the culture, my grandfathers and
8 grandmothers. My grandfather on my dad's side was a
9 trapper, a hunter, and all that, too, so the -- we carried
10 on traditions and customs.

11 And -- okay, then we get older, get into
12 school, the -- like, the -- the education system, and even
13 there, even when I was in day school, I was getting
14 roughhoused and everything like that, you know, bullying.
15 Bullying from school started there, and you know, it's not
16 just at home. It starts from school when -- let alone it
17 comes from adults, not -- just not happening in the
18 education system. It happens on a daily basis.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So just -- just for the
20 record, Brent, when you talk about day school, can you sort
21 of put a time frame on that? How old, about, were you
22 in -- what year would that be?

23 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** From 1965 to 1975.
24 Yeah.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. I just -- I'm just

1 helping --

2 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- to put a bit of a
4 timeline. So when were you born?

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** 1961.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You were born in 1961,
7 and -- and your sister that you'll be speaking about,
8 Denise, was she younger or older than you?

9 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Older than I was.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** She was older than you.
11 Can you --

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** 1957.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** She was born in 1957.

14 Okay. And so when you talk about day school, was that on
15 the reserve?

16 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yes, it was. Yeah.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And was that run by the
18 church?

19 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** No. That was run by
20 the -- by the Alberta Government or the Government.
21 Federal Government.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So it was a -- a
23 public -- a public school?

24 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Public, but -- but
25 still yet, you were -- you were -- we were forced to take

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 religion --

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

3 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- in the day school.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. All right. Okay.

7 Sorry. So please -- please go ahead.

8 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** So yeah, there
9 were -- that was happening there and stuff, and -- like,
10 bullying and things like that from some of the students and
11 even the teachers, and then a lot of us, because there was
12 new things, and again, I -- I always say, the focus has got
13 to go back to the education system, because as soon as I
14 was introduced to the education system, my belief about
15 compassion and care and respect was getting wiped out
16 because at home, this is what we're taught, right?

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

18 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** But when you go to the
19 education system, it's not because we had a non-Indigenous
20 teacher that did -- had no -- probably no idea about our
21 customs and our traditions and how to keep family together
22 let alone of respecting men and women, right? Because when
23 I was younger, I thought it was funny or something, but I
24 went out and I pulled a -- a young girl's hair or
25 something, and I made her cry, and the teacher was a woman,

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(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 non-Indigenous woman, so what she does is she grabs me by
2 the ear, and she goes pulling me right to the principal,
3 and as I'm walking up the steps, and the principal, you
4 know, they had those fire alarms? Remember those old-time
5 fire alarms?

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, yes. Yes.

7 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** I seen that, and I
8 pulled it, and the fire alarm went off and everything, and
9 I got punished for, also, doing something like that, so...

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So was your day school on
11 the reserve, or were you -- did it --

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** On the reserve.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It was on the reserve?
14 Yeah.

15 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** After that fact,
16 we -- we did have to leave Edmonton because -- I mean, our
17 First Nation because our house had -- we had a fire on
18 a -- in our home, right? So we had to relocate into
19 Edmonton, so we had to take education off-reserve, also, so
20 the day school applies to that.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And I'm -- I'm
22 sorry, I'm just trying to -- again, the timeline. So when
23 you were -- when you were talking -- you talked about child
24 welfare had stepped in with your family, so was that, like,
25 from the time you were born until you went to day school?

1 I'm just trying to --

2 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: No. It was while I
3 was in day school.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

5 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Because alcohol was
6 still being consumed at home, right, so...

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

8 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: The system back in the
9 day, if they see this, it -- it has to still do with their
10 residential school era --

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes. Yes.

12 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: -- of taking the kids
13 away.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. But you were still
15 on the reserve?

16 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: No. We got moved out.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And then you came back?

18 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

20 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: But we only came back
21 to Edmonton because my mom moved to Edmonton.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And do you remember
23 when that was?

24 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: '70 -- I don't recall,
25 but it was in the '70s anyway.

Brent Burnstick

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1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

2 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Probably about
3 mid-'70s.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Because even that,
6 after that, I got into trouble again. My three younger
7 brothers and sisters stayed with Mom, and I ended up going
8 to Grande Prairie, just me.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And who was --

10 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Just me.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And who was in
12 Grande Prairie?

13 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** There's a -- a thing
14 called a youth assessment centre. That's where I was, and
15 that has to do with, again, the residential school,
16 church --

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

18 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- child welfare
19 affecting me, and the other thing I say is television.
20 Television brainwashes people. Brainwashed me to steal
21 because back in the day, I remember the '60s, we had three
22 channels: 2, 3, and Channel 11 -- I mean, 3, 5, and
23 Channel 11, and Channel 11 is the French station, and after
24 midnight, and I said this at the residential school
25 hearing, after -- after 11:30, 12 o'clock, when you turn it

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1 to that, and being a young man or a young child, being
2 curious with that button, (unreportable sound), you change
3 it to Channel 11, what do see? Pornography. That's what I
4 seen, and that's what I said in the thing.

5 So back in the day, the government and
6 whoever -- did they have a plan (indiscernible) to destroy
7 people's lives? So that's what I seen with that -- back in
8 that day because we were one of the first -- because my
9 dad -- late dad was a good worker, right, and in the
10 '60s -- and we were one of the families -- first families
11 to have a TV.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Hm. Okay.

13 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** So we're -- that's
14 when we are started getting brainwashed, and then we
15 watched those things about cowboys and Indians, you know?
16 And a lot of us wanted to change who we were as Indians,
17 so -- we'd rather be a cowboy. So that's where that hurt
18 us also, that imaging, right?

19 So that -- a lot of that plays into factors
20 and -- you know, sort of, we -- we disrupted us, and
21 our -- we stayed -- like, some of -- my siblings stayed
22 with different family members, right? But -- some stayed
23 with my grandparents, some stayed with aunts and uncles,
24 some totally just left, like, they were old enough,
25 16 -- 15, 16, right? So they went on their own. Like, my

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1 late sister, she took off at a young age, and she ended up
2 having her first baby in, say -- at '72, so she was
3 15 years old, and then her second daughter, because there
4 were two girls, in '75, and then she -- she met
5 someone -- or she went to Hobbema because we have relatives
6 in Hobbema, right, Maskwacis? We have relatives over
7 there, and she went over there, and she was staying with
8 our grandparents, and somehow or another, or something, she
9 met a man, and we didn't hear nothing about it, anything,
10 then all of a sudden, we get a call, and -- saying that our
11 sister is in the hospital, and that -- at the old
12 University of Alberta Hospital on the south side of
13 Edmonton, and so we -- we all go to her, and it must have
14 been about ten days or so that she was in a coma, but we
15 were there for one week, anyway, because we heard about it,
16 been transferred from hospital, hospital, then she ended up
17 at the U of A, so we went, and we sat there the whole week
18 because she stayed around for a whole week with us, and
19 just before she left us, I was the last one to sit with
20 her. I was sitting on her -- on her -- in the room with
21 her, right? She was on the bed. I was sitting on a chair.
22 She was here. I held her hand, and no word of a lie, it
23 was like her last life, she squeezed my hand, and then
24 15 minutes after, I went -- well, 15 minutes, I went
25 out -- 15 minutes that went by, right? I went out. Doctor

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1 came in and told us that she left.

2 Then a few years go on. We kept trying
3 to -- I kept talking to my relatives, because the relatives
4 were still alive in Maskwacis, my aunt and my grandfather
5 and grandmother, aunts and uncles who were still alive back
6 in the day. So we started inquiring about it and finding
7 out because what we heard is that she fell off a horse and
8 she banged her head while intoxicated. Then we start
9 thinking, well, even if you're intoxicated, wouldn't you
10 want to maybe try to stop yourself from getting hurt or
11 something, especially you were -- if you were to fall and
12 slip? Like, I would.

13 So we left it like that, okay, the -- has to
14 do with her horse, knocked her -- bucked her off or
15 something. She fell off a horse. She banged her head.
16 And then, like that, she left us, right? So we
17 kept -- like, we kept talking to the family back in
18 Hobbema, and eventually something came out, and it was
19 mentioned that she was beaten up by this man that she was
20 with, and then we asked about that man, that man. We kept
21 asking. We got a name, and then we found out later that
22 that man had -- that done -- done the harm to her, he had
23 got sick and -- well, he's gone, too, so ...

24 But then there was a report that was written
25 by the police, by the RCMP or the police back in the day.

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1 There are some things that we -- I don't think they
2 thoroughly questioned or thoroughly investigated because I
3 seen -- looked like there was loop holes in the report, and
4 I didn't like it that they labeled -- the RCMP or the
5 police labeled -- it was like my sister -- my -- my nieces
6 were probably 7 -- 4 and 7 years old or something like
7 that, right? But on that report, the RCMP labeled "these
8 two young girls maybe will be unfit mothers when they get
9 older."

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Do you have a copy of that
11 report?

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** I'm going to have to
13 talk to my niece about it because she had it, and I seen
14 that report. I have actually read it, and even my other
15 brother who was the Chief of the First Nation -- of our
16 First Nation read that report also.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Would you like the
18 Commission -- if you can get a hold of that report, would
19 you like the Commission to get a copy of it?

20 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yes, I would. Yeah.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So we'll talk about
22 that --

23 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- later. Sorry, I
25 just --

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah. And yeah, so
2 that's how it went, and whatever -- we didn't like it, you
3 know, but -- being labeled, you know, after reading that
4 report, because I didn't read it at that time, eh, like,
5 '79 or when it was done or completed. I read it probably
6 about maybe ten years later or something.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Sorry, I'm just making
8 sure this is working. I heard a beep.

9 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So I always worry about --

11 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- something being turned
13 off --

14 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- so thank you. Yeah.

16 No, I'm just trying to make sure -- good.

17 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** So, yeah, like said,
18 reading the -- reading the report after fact.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

20 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah, and I didn't
21 like it about that -- labeling. You know, that's just like
22 racial profiling of our children, of our youth, our women,
23 and I didn't like that, and that's one of the issues, also,
24 why I'm here. Like I said, stereotypical remarks, racial
25 inequalities, racial differences, racial labeling,

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 discrimination. You know, that all -- that all plays in,
2 factors of what happened with our women, children -- men
3 and women, our men and boys, and then -- I was going to
4 say, even my late father -- I'll just mention it. My late
5 father leaving us in 1983, and he was left on the road
6 frozen due to alcoholism, and that's another issue that I
7 can speak of because I was a contact for that, and I -- I
8 kind of left it alone for a bit, and then I talked to my
9 late mom before she left -- left us to go to the spirit
10 world. I mentioned to her and family members that I was
11 thinking about reopening the case because I was not
12 satisfied, in here, because it was still hurting, but when
13 I -- when I started mentioning it, the individual that my
14 late dad was with, and this individual's the one that left
15 him on the high -- on the road, when I -- when he got wind
16 of it, he had got sick, and he -- now he's not here. So I
17 don't know what kind of answers I will get now.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

19 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** But even then, the
20 report, the police didn't even do the report or whatever,
21 and my -- my father's not here today, and then I'll
22 go -- now we'll go to 2015, because again, I would like to
23 see an inquiry about what about our men and our boys, also,
24 that are going missing? They're just as important as every
25 other walks of life in the world, so that's with -- closing

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 with that.

2 And then now we go to 2015. My -- my
3 [Relative 1], she -- she lives up in the [Town 1] area, in
4 Alberta. We got a call one day saying that our [Relative
5 1] had not been contacted, she'd gone missing for -- one
6 day she's gone, and so we -- we got all riled up and
7 everything. We're trying to locate funds, right? So we
8 contact two bands, my wife's band and my own First Nation
9 so get some fund so we can go help them search, and we
10 don't -- we totally get refused or get no response or reply
11 back to -- to see if they're going to help us.

12 So with that, with no response from either
13 leadership, it affects my woman, my wife, whose [Relative
14 1] is missing, because she's scared about her safety, she's
15 hurt, she's thinking that something could be -- could have
16 happened to her, and it even affected my kids because my
17 kids grew up with her. They're just like a sister to their
18 [Relative 1], right?

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

20 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And it affected them,
21 too, and if their mom was to go hitchhike all by herself
22 and left me with the kids to take care of them and
23 would -- and something happened to her, it would affect the
24 kids totally today, but I -- we had to go through some hard
25 discussion, me and my wife, hard, hurt feeling, you know?

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 Like, she went to cry. She was hurting. She was mad. She
2 was willing to hit me to actually leave so she can
3 hitchhike to go, and I had to totally -- not -- like, not
4 push her but to hold her and say, no, honey, because if you
5 go, what if something does happen to you, and you're going
6 to be another stat, another number that's going to be added
7 onto this? And I said, maybe, honey, you could stop and
8 breathe and think about this, what I'm talking to you
9 about, so she did, and I says, breathe, honey, because that
10 hurt is going to hurt you if you do not let it out. So she
11 breath, then she start relaxing, and I says, now, think
12 about that, honey. If you go down, what if somebody picks
13 you up and does the same thing? And she thought, okay,
14 you're right, and so we calm -- she calmed down and
15 whatever, and eventually down the road, my brother does dig
16 out of his own pocket, but -- you know? That's what the
17 band is there for. But he digs out of his own pocket, but
18 at that time, I guess because through text-messaging and
19 other things, my [Relative 2] is asking me, how can I help,
20 and other things, right? And I was thinking, well, we have
21 technology now today. What is the RCMP doing? Because
22 they had called the military. They were going to get the
23 military to go search because it's forested area, the Rocky
24 Mountains, right? It's a big area that's forested. So
25 they're going to call the military, and I start thinking,

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(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 well, with our technology today, get RCMP decide to do a
2 track on her phone because the phone's got GPS.

3 So I text this to [Relative 2], because
4 she's talking with the RCMP, right, so I said, why don't
5 you guys track her phone? See if her GPS is on her phone.
6 So they do that, so later they found her, but the -- the
7 issue is that everything that's happening on the First
8 Nation, it's at home, First Nation, the education system,
9 and the government, so the -- now when you look at that,
10 with that one, there's one, two, three, four, five, because
11 First Nation government and the federal government, because
12 their responsibility, so the federal government, so there's
13 five individuals that are involved now.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

15 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** So that's what needs
16 to be looked at.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So can I ask, when
18 your [relative] -- [Relative 1]?

19 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** When she went missing, you
21 said you got a call the next day. Were the -- do you know
22 if the police were contacted? Because you talk about the
23 military. Again, the military just --

24 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** No. There was
25 two -- there's two texting because the first day, right --

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

2 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: -- they text us and
3 saying they didn't hear nothing from [Relative 1] and
4 stuff, and I says, well, I think I need to file a
5 missing -- a missing persons report.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.

7 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: So they did, right?

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay, they did?

9 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

11 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Okay.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: So --

13 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: And we didn't have
14 a -- I totally forgot to bring. I have copies of that,
15 too, right, of that.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And was there
17 something in that report that bothered you?

18 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: That was -- that
19 wasn't a report, that just -- of what -- what goes on
20 because, again, we're here to find out what is the cause to
21 why are -- some of the women, men, or whatever, right?

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Right. Yeah.

23 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Why they leave, why
24 they go missing, and again, again, about the values of each
25 individual.

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1 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

2 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: It's the values, you
3 know? Like, for myself as a -- as a Cree man, my -- one of
4 my values is -- is respect.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

6 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: So I don't know if it
7 follows in other -- other -- other ethnic groups, right?
8 And how strong is that respect in -- in other ethnic
9 groups? For me, it's strong, and that's what I teach
10 my -- my young ones right, today.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

12 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: So if it's not that
13 strong with others, how can they come and say that they
14 care? Because I -- I -- I use my value systems -- like,
15 there's honesty, trust, respect -- well, I'll leave respect
16 open -- love, from -- you know, and there's kinship,
17 and -- and togetherness, and if we don't work all together
18 like that, you don't get respect, so that's what I'm
19 saying. If individuals don't follow a lot of this, how are
20 you going to get over here, right?

21 But, again, I mention about the school.

22 Well, there's bullying. That was going on with my -- my
23 [Relative 1]. Bullying at the school, bullying with the
24 staff, and -- and the leader were not addressing this.
25 Why? Because it has to do with election voting.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

2 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: And this also plays
3 with the non-Indigenous.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: So how old was your
5 [Relative 1] when she went missing?

6 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: [A teenager]. Yeah,
7 [teenager]. She's just going on -- I think she's [age]
8 now. Yeah.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: So -- so are you talking
10 about [Relative 1]?

11 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: [Relative 1], yeah.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: So she was [age] when she
13 went missing?

14 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: When she -- yeah.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: And you -- and they found
16 her.

17 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: They found her, yeah,
18 through -- like, how I said, though.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Yes.

20 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: But the RCMP not
21 thinking that.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

23 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Sorry, just in terms of
25 trying to put the context, and -- and she had passed.

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(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** No. She's -- she's
2 okay.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, she's okay.

4 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** But now -- but
5 now -- that's what I'm saying, today now, today now,
6 [Relative 2] does not know, she's in [City], so we don't
7 know what she's getting into. That's what I'm saying.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Okay.

9 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** If you're looking at
10 trying to solve issues, right, a broader picture.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** There's bullying, the
13 education system, bullying by staff, bullying even by Chief
14 and council --

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Hm.

16 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- their -- their
17 people around, right?

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

19 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Because
20 families -- there's big families on First Nations. These
21 big families can go target other individuals and try to
22 make a -- you know, disrupt it.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Like, I guess what I'm
24 coming back to was because given that [Relative 1] was only
25 16, and you had spoken that neither her band --

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Or my band.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- or was -- would --

3 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Would not help.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- would not help

5 financially --

6 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Financially.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- to look for her.

8 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: No.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Even though she was only
10 16.

11 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: And when -- and can I ask,
13 when they found her, was she with somebody else, or was she
14 lost, or was she --

15 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: She was -- they found
16 her right in the [Town 1].

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, so they found her in
18 a -- another community?

19 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: What -- what had
20 happened is -- like, her First Nation, there's about 60,
21 70 miles in the wilderness.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.

23 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: And she come
24 walking -- I guess she walked out of the residence, walked
25 on the highway, and somebody seen her, and then after that,

1 nobody seen her after, so right away --

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

3 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: -- thinking, did she
4 get picked up?

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes.

6 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Get kidnapped?

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes.

8 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: So that's the notion
9 we got, right?

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

11 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Because I -- way out
12 in the bush, and --

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

14 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: -- strange vehicles,
15 because it did happen to us. We were driving down the
16 highway. A vehicle comes pulling up right beside us, he
17 looks at us, backs up, he backs down, comes behind us
18 again, does the same thing.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

20 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: So that's where it
21 made me think, did something happen to her?

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, absolutely.

23 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: And in 2015.

25 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah.

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1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right? Yeah.

2 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. So -- but -- so was
4 she found in the -- in the community, then? She was
5 just -- (indiscernible).

6 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah, (indiscernible)
7 there. She was right -- she was about 60 miles away,
8 though.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes.

10 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Like, in the town.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Okay.

12 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Yeah. But then
13 there's brought up of why? Because of all -- like I said,
14 it's -- because -- has to do with the human rights abuses,
15 might as well say it, because it's -- when you're racism
16 and discrimination, right? So that's what -- that's what's
17 a factor on our First Nations now because that's what is
18 going on with her.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

20 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Because, like I said,
21 it's the bigger families, and she was sort of -- like, she
22 was friends with some of these -- these bigger families,
23 right?

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

25 MR. BRENT BURNSTICK: Like, the -- the

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1 younger ones, the girls or whatever.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

3 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** But then different
4 influence, again, because of what? Oh, you can do this.
5 Oh, I can move up. The social elite ladder, might as well
6 as say. She started getting bullying from the school and
7 then staff, and staff is pick -- picking because a staff
8 member works there, and their children are in school, and
9 if somebody -- displays with the -- you know, argues or
10 gets in the middle -- tension with a staff member or
11 student, the staff pick that student --

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

13 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- protect the staff
14 and the student.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So -- so what I hear you
16 saying is that young girls like [Relative 1], even in 2015
17 at 16, are -- she's at risk.

18 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** At risk, yeah.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** At risk. And so one of
20 the things that the Commission is looking for is
21 recommendations, as well, as to how to support young girls
22 and women, of course, Indigenous, to -- to help keep them
23 safe, you know? So those recommendations, you may not have
24 them right now, so we can certainly -- you know, you could
25 go away and -- and think about what kind of recommendations

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(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 from your experience would help at-risk or higher-risk
2 girls that are facing these -- racism and bullying and
3 stuff in the communities to help keep them safe.

4 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** I can -- I can give
5 the right -- right off the top. Recommendation is they
6 come -- they attend one of our traditional camps.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

8 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Traditional camps
9 without influences -- influences meaning technology, you
10 know, like cell phones, video games -- and living on the
11 land again because they lost their connection. They lost
12 the identity of who they are and how they're connected, and
13 that's one of the things that I didn't lose focus on.
14 Sure, when I was younger, growing up, I lost focus, but
15 then when I got initiated, I'm grounded again. I'm
16 grounded meaning my feet are here. I'm not up here.
17 I'm...

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So can I ask, what did it
19 take to move you from that time as a youth and sort of
20 the -- the lifestyle that you were having? Was it just
21 getting older, the age, or did you have an experience that
22 got you back and grounded you back in your culture and in
23 your land?

24 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Well, I mentioned
25 about four times trying to commit suicide.

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1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

2 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** The last time I tried
3 to commit suicide, my late grandfather and my late mom were
4 alive, and we had went to an -- came in to see an Elder,
5 another Elder, for some spiritual guidance, and without him
6 being there to guide us and to -- you know, because he was
7 the one that actually had the vehicle and the funding at
8 that time to take us to go see the Elder, and I'm very
9 grateful, and from then -- that day forward, I've really
10 changed my way and looking at life, eh? And I had to think
11 about it in saying that, why am I trying to be somebody
12 different? I can't be any different than who I am as a
13 Cree man, as a Cree person, Cree human, so why am I trying
14 to be somebody else? You know? This public image or this
15 image that you see from others, right? I want to be a rock
16 star. Well, am I ever going to be there? I don't think
17 so. So I don't -- I don't follow those beliefs. My
18 beliefs are on who I am.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right, and that's where
20 you've come to through reconnecting --

21 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Reconnecting.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- and it comes back to a
23 comment you made when we were first starting about -- as
24 a -- as a child watching TV and the cowboys and Indians.

25 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You wanted to be the
2 cowboy.

3 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Wanted to be the
4 cowboy.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And
6 that -- that's -- that's a reaction to negativity.

7 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Negativity, yeah.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- in what has surrounded
9 you.

10 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And now -- since
13 I've -- like I said, since I've touched the culture, and
14 that was 1987 when I got initiated, my life has kind of
15 changed, become more and more -- it's positive. You know,
16 sure, I'm unemployed. Hey, don't bother me. Like, for me,
17 myself, as a grounded man, and for who I am as Indigenous
18 man, I'm not rich. I'm not supposed to be rich with money.
19 We're supposed to be rich in knowledge and what's in our
20 body -- in our heart.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Okay.

22 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** So those are the
23 issues that I have, you know, and like I said, the justice
24 system needs to be changed, totally re -- rehailed. Like,
25 I see things there -- you know, they're not asking every

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1 one of us -- sure, they're going to these justice ministers
2 in every province, but why not come down to the grassroots
3 level like us? Ask for our input? You know? Maybe
4 there's some -- some recommendations in there that can
5 help --

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

7 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- with this, right?

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

9 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** The other thing is
10 child welfare. I sat on a child welfare board for my -- my
11 band. Then they removed me out of there, and -- you know,
12 and now when you look at the issues that are going on today
13 with children in care, women being hurt, men and women
14 being hurt.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes.

16 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Boys being hurt too.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

18 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And then the justice
19 system, like, our -- for myself, being penalized and, you
20 know, punished and -- in there because, again, it had to do
21 with our survival. We just wanted to live, but again,
22 I -- I always go back to that TV. Brainwashed. Oh.
23 Steal. That's why -- now, I won't bother. I -- I won't
24 even allow my children to do that.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

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(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** I told them, keep your
2 hands to yourself because you can get yourself in trouble
3 by touching, and that's touching even a woman or a girl or
4 anyone.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so, if I can,
6 the -- the -- sort of the comments in terms of your own
7 personal experience, did you see much of Denise's -- or was
8 she in another home? Because you said some of the family
9 were together, some were in different homes. I'm just
10 wondering, because you said she went off to Hobbema, and
11 I'm just wondering how much connection, like, this --

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** We didn't -- before
13 she left us, there was not much connection. I think there
14 was about -- about good two years, right, because Mom and
15 her had a disagreement and whatever, then she left, and
16 there's little -- little contact.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. So -- so did you
18 feel that with the -- with the residential school, with
19 your parents and -- and -- and it's just what you feel.

20 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** From listening to what
22 you've said, sort of the -- those -- the systemic issues,
23 the -- the residential schools, your parents had -- and
24 you -- sorry, I'm -- I'm digressing here for a second. You
25 said your dad only went for a week.

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(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** About a week or so,
2 yeah.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** What -- what did he do?
4 Did he drink?

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** His
6 grandparent -- well, his parents kept him home.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

8 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Kind of hidden him
9 because I -- I heard some stories after the fact -- after,
10 right, after the era --

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Uh-huh.

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- that some of the
13 parents did actually hide their children.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

15 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And my dad maybe was
16 one of them.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

18 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Because even then, he
19 didn't even go to finish school, but he had become a good
20 work and a good carpenter.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes.

22 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** He learned on his own.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes.

24 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you said one of your

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(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 grandparents was a trapper?

2 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** I think both of them
3 were, but my dad's dad was -- because I -- I seen him,
4 right?

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

6 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** I could seen him. He
7 would actually go out just about every -- every other day
8 or -- to go get his -- check his traps and stuff, and he'd
9 actually showed me how to do the beaver and stuff like
10 that, and...

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So I just want to -- in my
12 own -- in my own mind, I want to make sure that I
13 understand. So large family, and the children at a young
14 age were separated into different family homes.

15 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And what I'm hearing is
17 that even when you sort of came back, you -- you were still
18 disconnected.

19 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Disconnected.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** The relationships -- the
21 people you hardly -- you knew, you were a sibling, but you
22 really didn't know one another. Is that what I'm hearing?

23 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Well, I know who they
24 are, but it just (indiscernible) --

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No, but I mean as a

Brent Burnstick

(Denise Burnstick & Relative 1)

1 person.

2 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah. Not --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes, you know, that

4 those --

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- relationships.

7 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Relationships.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so you sort of -- so

9 for Denise, she left and went to Hobbema.

10 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- so you really

12 didn't have a lot of contact with her?

13 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** No, not --

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And distance and stuff.

15 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Distance, but we were

16 close because I -- I did live with her in Edmonton here,

17 when she was younger, right, before, and then after that,

18 we just lost connection. Yeah.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And did you have another

20 sister?

21 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah. I have two

22 others.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Two other sisters?

24 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** I have a younger one,

25 and there's one that's disabled. Like, she's mentally

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1 disabled. Like, she lives in the city here. She's a
2 little older than I am.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

4 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And then I have
5 younger one that -- and like I said, has to do with the
6 residential school --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

8 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- and what it's done
9 to our parents, with alcoholism coming in, and making a
10 woman, saying to her, oh, I'm not worthy about this, and
11 with alcohol, and if someone -- a non-Indigenous man,
12 because my mom drank, my mom met an non-Indigenous man, and
13 they had, what do you call, sexual intercourse, and that's
14 where my younger sister came out.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

16 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** A non-Indigenous man,
17 so mixed blood.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And how -- how -- do you
19 have a relationship with her?

20 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Touch and go.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Touch and go?

22 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

24 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And she lost
25 her -- the sister that I'm talking about lost her son this

1 year, September.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, dear.

3 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Murdered.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And that comes back to
5 your earlier comment about the need to also look at the
6 loss of the men --

7 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** The men and the boys.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- and the boys.

9 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Yeah. Yeah.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So in -- is
11 there -- I had -- I had mentioned at the beginning that one
12 of the things about the inquiry is also looking to how to
13 commemorate and how to honour the -- the women and girls
14 that have lost their lives, the missing and the murdered.
15 Do you have any thoughts?

16 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Well, for me,
17 and -- for me and my family, I don't -- I know she's
18 resting, my sister's resting, and uncertain about
19 my -- about my [Relative 1] and where she is right now, but
20 I know my sister's resting in the spirit world, and the way
21 we are as family here, I -- I strongly believe until we can
22 set aside our differences and reunite and bond as a family,
23 why would just mean -- want to go make a commemoration when
24 it should have been all of us to do it together?

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

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1 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And this way, will
2 be -- maybe it'll bring us all stronger together, and
3 they'll say, well, (indiscernible) because that's all it is
4 is sometimes garbage, that's all it is, because we pile it
5 on too much, and people don't know how to deal with it.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Yeah.

7 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** So that's what I
8 recommend.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

10 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** You know, for me and
11 my family. If we were to do something for my late sister
12 and others, that's what I think needs to be done.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Come back as a family.

14 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Come back as a family,
15 and -- you know, to speak from here, not from here.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

17 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** From here.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** From the heart.

19 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** From the heart and do
20 something for them and -- but for us, you know, and I
21 don't -- I don't think it happens lots in the non-
22 Indigenous world, but for us when we lose our loved ones,
23 we have ceremonies. We hold feasts for them, and we hold
24 round dances, and we do our own ceremonies --

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

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1 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** -- in our peaceful way
2 that we can, and we always do it in four, so after our
3 fourth one is done, we kind of let them go back and time
4 for them to rest until we're ready to call them again. So
5 that's my recommendation for my family and the
6 Commissioners, and if I can help, like I said, as a
7 spiritual man who had done a lot of his healing for going
8 on 30 years now if not more, I'm willing and able to in any
9 which way I can.

10 And, like I said, the issue, I really
11 believe, is trust amongst everyone that's involved in how
12 we take care of everyone in our daily lives. That's
13 the -- number one that's gone is trust. It's broken.
14 Until that is fixed, you're not going to fix the problems
15 that are facing Mother Earth and mankind because we see
16 it -- like, from ourselves, you know, we -- we hear that
17 they're -- some individuals are experts. How are they
18 experts when we still see things happening? How -- how are
19 they going to ever stop that?

20 So why can't they set aside these
21 differences and say -- admit and say, we are not experts.
22 We need help. We need outside help, outside of the
23 government with grassroots people. Like, we are
24 grassroots. You know, there's -- it's not just me
25 grassroots. Could be another -- from another ethnic group

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1 or another race that's a grassroots. Why not listen to them
2 too? Because they lived the hardship just like myself and
3 that. There's --

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** But some didn't live
6 the hardship, so how are they going to help if
7 they've -- what we say is spoon-fed with a golden spoon?
8 And when you -- when you actually don't live and experience
9 rough lives and whatever, rough upbringing, abuses, the
10 hurts.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Pain.

12 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Pain, the suffering.
13 Yeah. And I just need to try to see if we can do it
14 together.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

16 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** And I always say, no
17 one is better than anyone. You know, how are we going to
18 get equality if you're always giving you, oh, I'm better
19 than you, I'm sitting on this pedestal. Don't put anybody
20 on a pedestal. That way you'll -- you'll avoid the
21 stereotypical remarks or whatever. Like, I -- I
22 always -- I say that for myself. I tell my babies back
23 home, my woman and others, I'm not better than anybody. I
24 says, maybe I got knowledge up here, but I'm no better than
25 anybody. I says, look at me, you know, I don't -- I don't

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1 buy myself the best of clothes. If I have to, I'll stay
2 who I am because that's who I am now. I'm going back to
3 who I am, right? Being grounded.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Better place.

5 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Better place, yeah.
6 You know, I'm not -- and my honey always tells me that when
7 I first met her, and I like -- I like this compliment from
8 her. Honey, when I first met you, look, you have not
9 changed yet, even up here. You're still at that same, like
10 that picture. And I told her, well, honey, one of my
11 mottos is, why worry over things that you have no control
12 over? And I only have control over my life. That's how I
13 try to help, and that's what I teach my young ones. I have
14 three young boys, three young men in my home. Right now,
15 my oldest boy is the man of the house. I told him that
16 that's your role. You protect our woman, and your woman
17 are the boss of the house. That's what a lot are
18 forgetting, the responsibilities of each one of us in that
19 home, and I can help.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Good. Any last words for
21 the Commission?

22 **MR. BRENT BURNSTICK:** Well, yes,
23 I -- Commissioners, I seen some of your reports, some of
24 your sayings, and I know that you wanted to exclude some of
25 the stuff in regards to going after police, but the trust

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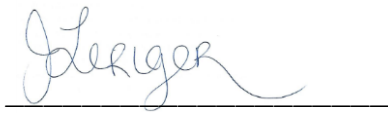
1 is broken between the RCMP police and the people,
2 especially us, the Indigenous. I have something that I can
3 probably pursue, but right now to try to help out in any
4 way, I'm trying to be compassionate about not pursuing it.
5 You know, I'm trying to reflect that how -- how am I to
6 help if I'm trying to make something hurt, always trying to
7 hurt? Well, you've got to get a balance, so all walks of
8 life got to learn to set aside their differences if you
9 want to make this a better world and we get a balance and
10 harmony because without it, we're always going to have a
11 rough road, and you'll never get the solutions or you'll
12 never solve the problems. And with that, thank you. *Hai,*
13 *hai.*

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Thank you.

15 --- Upon adjourning

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jenessa Leriger, 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JLeriger", is written above a solid horizontal line.

Jenessa Leriger

March 13, 2018