National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Chateau Nova Hotel
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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Statement - Volume 197

Lina Gon-Austin

Statement gathered by Yvonne Johnson

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement Volume 197
January 23, 2018
Witness: Lina Gon-Austin

Testimony of Lina Gon-Austin .................. 1
Reporter’s certification ......................... 51

Statement gatherer: Yvonne Johnson

Documents submitted with testimony: none.
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, January 23, 2018
at 3:07 p.m.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: I'm Yvonne Johnson.
I'm a statement-taker with the National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls at
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, on January 23rd, 2018,
and it is seven minutes after 3:00.

Today, I'm speaking with Lina Gon of the
Fort Rae Behchoko nation where she resides, and she's here
to tell her truth of her experience in Behchoko. There is
no one else in the room.

Also, for the record, Lina, you are here
voluntarily to provide your truth and to provide your
personal truth as a survivor regarding your experience in
your community of Behchoko or Fort Rae?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Thank you.
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: You're welcome.
MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: We're ready to go.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I was born in
Behchoko, and I was born in 1955 on January 28th. On
January 28th, I'll be 63 years old, and I'm one of the
residence school survivors.

I was hospitalized. I was in a school --
I was picked from my hometown when I was young. I was going to school in my hometown, and when they came, they said, "You, you, you," and they took us away from our families, and they sent us to Fort Smith.

We were hospitalized -- we were in the hospital there, and we were looked after. We were treated really bad, got called names, harassed by people, tomboys. We were kicked around. We were hit around. Even the nuns, they don't see what was happening to us, but for about five years, I was there.

I was hospitalized for three years, and -- all broken bones from downhill skiing and going to Girl Guides. There was a Girl Guides -- not in the hospital, not in Verna Hall (ph). It was at the church. It was at the church, St. Pat or something, that big church in Fort Smith. Down below, they had Girl Guides. I was with the Girl Guides there when -- growing up with all the Guides, like Brownies and Girl Guides.

We were hit by tomboys when we were going back to residence school, but we were chased by them, and when that young girl -- when we were young, that young girl was pushed onto me when we were all running, and I was put in the hospital. And my leg was swollen right up, and I was hospitalized because -- I think they had to operate on my leg, but I don't even know if I have -- if I have my two
kidneys. I think I just have only one, because I got to go -- got to go washroom, and I was put in a hospital in -- Shaw Council (ph) Hospital for operation when I was young. In five years of being in Fort Smith school, I come back here in 1970s not knowing any Dogrib language. I lost it in the hospital, being put in the hospital in Fort Smith and lost my language, but I fought to get it back.

The only shopping we were doing from Fort Rae was only into town -- into town here was shopping. Shopping back and forth, catch a ride back to Rae, about 90 miles.

Bringing groceries back, and I was raped. I was grabbed by about five guys when I was walking. They grabbed me from behind, and there was one girl with me -- was helping those guys. She helped them in rape me, and there was a baby born in 1970.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: That was your baby?
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes. I was 13 years old when the baby was born, and the baby died at birth. They buried the baby here. Because of what happened here in Yellowknife, that's where I was raped. That's why the baby was buried here.

I was married -- at before -- after that happened -- well, before that, I had my own company. It
was a co-op doing cutouts and beadwork and everything in Rae, and sometimes washing diapers with the hospital there, Stanton Hospital in Rae. They had an old hospital there.

I remember my dad always worked with the church, always worked with church. Potato fields, you know, growing vegetables for them and stuff, and he was always a trapper, too, and he was a builder. He built houses and stuff, and those houses was built in 1970. I worked in those houses side-by-side with my dad and my uncles, and those houses was built in Rae. That was all my dad and my uncle. They built them.

I remember each one. They never were paid good for building those houses, too. They only got $100 each. I remember that. I remember the guy's name Marlo -- was the carpenter. I can't remember the other guy's name, but...

When I got married in Lacombe, Alberta, in 1971, travelled -- I travelled with my son all the way to, BC because it was just -- I was working and I was pregnant, and in a year or so, I come back to work, but instead we end up on the farm helping his mom and dad on the farm. This is after my son was born in Vancouver. We travelled all the way down there to Vancouver until my son was born.

My Auntie Lucy lives in Cumber River. Her and her old man, they're miners. They're miners from --
they're from Yellowknife here.

After when my son was born, I was resided in Clive, Alberta, between Lacombe and Red Deer for about a good ten years, I think, and maybe more than ten years, until my son was old enough. I was going back and forth from the farm working in Rae, and then I got placed in 1970 in Edzo. The houses was done. In '71, the houses was done. They gave me a house.

I was working in Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Rae, and I was working in Elizabeth Mackenzie School in Edzo. I was working in both positions. I was in language, translating in English into Dogrib, and the same thing with -- I was working every position at the hospital in Edzo, too.

So I was working every position there more than ten years, back and forth, every position, like even janitors when they need it. Sometimes when they need a cook, I -- they needed me there, and then to be with the doctor, side-by-side with the doctor. If I'm not working in those jobs, I'm doing the school, with the library or with special needs -- special needs teacher.

Then, I'm doing -- I have my own company, Shell Oil Company, Shell Oil and Gas Company, and it's -- in the 70s, in those days, being an Indian, you can't even borrow money from a bank or any place. So that's why I
borrowed a chunk of money from my father-in-law.

My ex have nothing to do with gas and oil.

I asked him to take it, and he won't. He says he'll take it if I would do it, if I take that business, doing my own business there, and I said yes, because my people need gas, and if they do it, get it hauled from Hay River or Yellowknife or from Ernie Stanton (ph), it's going to cost them double. I know, because I know Esso was here, but nobody wants to deal with Esso.

So I was -- the only gas pump I was hauling to was run out of service in Yellowknife in 1970 here. It was located between Red Apple and that area there -- Red Apple. In 1970, they had no gas in Yellowknife, and they asked me to come in and bring a load. When I brought a load in, about 6:00 o'clock in the morning, around there, there was a big line-up. I could see all the line up from past that Red Apple all the way to Yellowknife Inn. I remember that. They had no gas in Yellowknife. I remember that, and that...

I borrowed that money from my father-in-law, and eventually my ex must have paid it back with his -- with my teaching or my nursing, my nursing cheques, because when we were taking a load, we never -- I don't even think we even got a cheque from my hometown.

That's what I -- like, I couldn't believe

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it. Like, here I am serving gas. I never even seen, you know, from Housing, a big cheque from them after hauling all that gas, working so hard. Nothing like that happened, but my father-in-law got paid back by my cheques anyway, I know that, from teaching and the gas.

My ex was a real alcoholic and really jealous type. He was really abusive. So I couldn't even look at another person or be gone for an hour, and that's why -- like, if I could get away, I would stay away, and I'll take any business from anywhere if I could, because I don't want to be in his face. He was so jealous that he -- he didn't want any woman to do better than him. And I had to kind of hide myself away from any guys, because if anybody looked at me, already I slept with that person; that's how he looked at me.

When he married me, he never asked any questions, but after, when he married me, when he found out I was raped, I think he wants to hurt all those people, because, you know, what they have done and all this. That's why I don't like alcohol, because they almost kill me underneath alcohol. They cover my head, hold my nose. They hold my nose. They were covering my eyes, and they were holding my nose when -- every time the bottle was in my mouth -- that's how they got a hold of me. All of them grabbed me from behind, and I don't know
who it was.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: You were 13 when this happened?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah. I could remember that girl's voice. If I mentioned that girl, I want her brought in court, and she'd probably remember all those guys' names, because she's the one that was helping them --

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Do you remember her name?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: -- to sell the girls to those guys so she can make money on the girls. Yes, [Woman 1].

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Is she around?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: From here, Ndilo. Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: She's still alive?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: She was in residence school. I guess she must have know how to plan with those guys, because she's one of those kind of people, I guess.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Do you ever see any of those guys?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: No. Well, I don't never seen those -- I don't even know those guys, but I know her. She was helping them. Because she lured me
right into -- behind Yellowknife Inn until I didn't see who
was behind us, nobody, until they grabbed me from behind.
All I followed was that girl. She lured me right in, and,
like, I almost got killed because of that, because of her
and whoever guys paid her to...

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: What happened afterwards?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: After?

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: You were assaulted, and then what happened after that? Did everybody leave? Were you left there? Did somebody pick you up? Can you tell me what happened?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I was left in a place -- I don't even know where that place was, but I remember getting out, and I don't even know -- I couldn't even see straight where I was going. I remember going into the Yellowknife Inn, waiting around until I finally found a ride back to Rae. I don't even know what happened to the groceries or anything, because I bought a whole bunch of groceries. I left it at Yellowknife Inn, and it was -- everything happened like that, and I found out later.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Did the police come and see you, or any --

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: There was no police involved those days, because I don't even know what
happened, and I don't even know how I end up in there when
I just came around the corner with this one girl. She was
in residence school. She used to be in residence school.

When I told my mom what happened, my mom
was just crying because I told her I was raped. I don't
know who. Like, this girl talked me into it, and then --
the same girl come into my hometown trying to pick up my
uncles, and she must have because I heard she had one of my
uncle [Family name 2]’s kid, and everybody knows her, was
really after my uncle, one of my uncles. She'd do anything
just to have him, you know. She did, I guess. So she
wants to have her son from him.

I don't know, like, because of her -- you
know, I remember when she came into my hometown there,
Auntie was -- Auntie was kind of -- I don't know. I heard
that Auntie was getting beat up because of that woman. She
really ripped everybody's marriage, I think, and really
ripped my life, anyway. Because of that, every day, I just
couldn't enjoy myself. Like, if I try to enjoy myself, I
feel like everybody is laughing at me. That's how I look
at it. So...

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: When --
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I couldn't even --
MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: When your mom found
out, when you told your mom and she got upset, did she do
anything? Did she call anybody?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: No, because we were Indians.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: She didn't call anybody? She didn't call a nurse or a doctor?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: No. Because if we talked about it, they probably would have me killed on the street.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: And your dad?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: My dad? My dad is a carpenter, and he worked all his life.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Did he know that you were assaulted?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes, he knew. My dad knew -- knew he was -- they were really hurt, my mom and dad, really hurt, what happened to me, but I had to go through it and went through it.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Then, a few years later, you met somebody who was controlling --

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: -- and jealous. Do you think that had anything to do with that experience, when you were raped?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Seventeen years of marriage. And I think so, because I still can't believe
it. His mom is a really nice person. I never hear them
get mad at each other when I was over there, sometimes when
on the phone, but something like that is -- maybe he
thought he picked out the perfect person.

It really bothered me after that for a
long time, and then I just put it aside. I just got
stronger because I put it aside. That's it. Like, some
day I'll write a book and throw it all in their face.
That's how I look at it. Because it's really -- every
position, I was put down. I even have scars from residence
school. I even got beat up really bad. I don't even know
if -- some days, I'm lucky to be alive, when I think about
it. I was put in the hospital, in the Shaw Council
Hospital. They thought the bones could be broken or
something. I don't know, but I made it through that.

And then, five years of residence school
come here -- come back from residence school, and then got
married in 1970.

First, I had my own business with my dad,
because he had the house, and I had my own co-op, because I
would do cutouts and stuff like that for people, and that's
how the money came was -- whatever craft my dad did and
whatever beadwork I did, and you know, money came from
that.

Money came from doing -- washing diapers
in the hospital or selling crafts to RCMP or just doing all kinds of things like cleaning, doing dishes, and in the '70s, I worked part-time in the Miner's Mess. So sometimes that weekend, I come in to do -- to work in the Miner's Mess at Yellowknife Inn, and that's what I was doing. And then, I was doing this -- it was every position I was working, and I was only -- my own trucking, too. I had my own trucking when I got married. I had my own trucking.

I was looking after my sister when my mom -- my mom was always getting sick, so she's always in the hospital, looking after my little sister. Her name is Angelina. She was about maybe going on two years old. She ran into a table and from there, she was 14 years in and out of hospital, brain tumours, and then, when she turned 14, she end up -- her eyesight was going -- her eyesight was going, and she still going for treatment in Edmonton. So she finally found somebody to look after her in Edmonton.

She has got to be looked after, because they had to operate on her brain and look after that tumour, tried to get it back down. So she was in Braille school there. That's why I had to let somebody look after her there, and then, when I was put her for Braille school over there, I was going back and forth from Edmonton to Fort Rae, Behchoko.
One day, I had to pull her out, because she was -- I felt like the people that was looking after her was harassed her and neglected, because they didn't look after her good. Because when I went there, a couple of times, I took her out and got her some brand new clothes and stuff like that. All these -- all the old clothes, like, old bra that was torn and there was strings hanging off it. That's the kind of bra they put my sister in, and old panties that looked like my -- way back in the '60s -- '60s, '50s, maybe '50s or '30s, around there. It looked like pantie and bra, that kind of pantie and bra they had on her, and she was just a young girl. She shouldn't have to be using that kind of stuff. She just got, like -- she was only about nine, ten years old, around there, but she was like 18 years old. She was -- because of that treatment from her head.

She was going to Braille school. I pulled her out. So my father-in-law said that he would look after her, because I was going back and forth, back and forth, and I was, like, going crazy there, I think, worrying about my sister, and I had to look after the farm for my father-in-law, too. So I was going back and forth.

So he was willing to look after my sister, so he took my sister to the farm, and once in a while, he picks her up for weekend, like, this -- from Edmonton,

So my sister was looked after until -- until she finished her school, Braille school. She turned 21 years old, and after she finished school, this was the end of June when she turned 21 in -- she just finished Braille school, and she went back in the hospital, and she passed away, brain tumour, cancers in her head. She passed away, 21 years old.

In the meantime, I was still going back and forth because of the -- I was looking after [Man 1], [Man 2]'s son, was put in the Mission Centre in Red Deer by social services because the mother couldn't look after him. He was older kid, and he had seizures, and I guess the kid eventually tried to hurt his mom, tried to -- with a knife or something. So that's why he got sent over there.

So I was going back and forth from Rae with special needs -- I worked every day with special needs with -- with blind people or deaf people. So I was going back and forth, and they told me to come and teach that kid. So I was working on the farm there, so it was not far from there, so I was going back and forth. In the meantime, sometimes come back to Rae and work at the schools there, too. So I was going back and forth.

My house was taken away from me in 1970.
Eventually, when I had a vehicle accident, I couldn't go back and forth. I was put in the hospital because of a vehicle accident, and my ex got -- my ex told me that we got kicked out of our house in Edzo. In Edzo there, and I said, "How could that be? We don't even have a bill. How we have a bill of" -- it was $500 for power bill. Because I did lots of work with my dad and my uncle, and none of us was paid. My uncles were all paid $100, like that, and I was lucky if I got that, sometimes, to even pay that, because the first time I put something down on Ski-Doo, that's when I did was the first time I put something down on Ski-Doo in '70s. Yeah.

I was going back forth every -- like, I was going back and forth -- I was married for 17 years to a farmer, and we ran a -- I think it was over 2,000 pigs and over two -- I don't know. From what I know, I think it's over -- I don't know how many acres. It's lots of acres. We look after -- that's counting without babies or the father or you're selling these pigs. You know, that's counting without them. Other than that, it's just like a big factory.

We looked after that, and my son was with me on the farm all the way, back and forth, but he went to school. Sometimes, on Sundays, I had time to drive him into town here for swimming. He always liked swimming, so
I always drove him to swim -- for swimming, and I like swimming, too. I used to like going skating with him, too, and did lots of things with him.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: You only had one child? Just one?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah. Yeah, out of my marriage. I think I would have had more, like, if -- as far as I know, hadn't went through a abortion -- abortion because of being raped, and --

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: When you were 13 years old, you were raped. You got pregnant. You had a child, and it was born as stillborn.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I had a child born in '70, and that's from the rape, and then, my son -- when I got married, my son, was married to this farmer for 17 years, and then, out on the farm, when I was on the farm there, I went through real bad medical problems, because I went through -- I was working on the farm there by myself. I stepped over this big stump, and the big stump -- I didn't even know the big stump had another hole under it, on the other side of the stump, and I stepped over it, and I went down on the stump and the whole -- the whole stump that was stuck in, like, just, the whole inside this -- the whole inside -- ripped a hole from the inside of that stump. I had to be put in the hospital because of that.
MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: What happened?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: The stump that --

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: That you stepped over?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah, a big log sitting there. There was an old stump there. It was a broken stump that was sticking out. When I put over my hand, the whole stump that was sticking out went right inside me, and I was ripped inside from here, like -- the doctor says I couldn't have any more kids because of that.

I'd like to know what they say on all those papers. I'd like to know if I can -- if I could get it all back and get the courts to straighten things out, because there was no divorce. I didn't want to be divorced. I don't believe in divorce. When I was going back and forth here, I worked in every position in the Explorer Hotel, and in the kitchen, even at the hospitals, every position at the hospitals. I was going back and forth, wherever they call me.

My son was looking for me in town here in 2004 on April 16. Tim Caisse killed my son. My son was 33 years old, and he killed my son, and he was put in jail. That old guy was put in jail. Not even five years, he was out, and he was put in the Salvation Army. He was staying in Salvation Army. Not even five years, and here, he got a
house, a big fancy -- a big house or something, a place, and here I am. I'm still struggling and still have no place, and here is that -- I think it was all set up. I think it was all set up because of -- I was the only Shell Oil Company, and I was the only truck driver in Fort Rae. [Man 3], 1970, he was bumming off of us. He was living with us. He was staying with us. Even so, we don't even know this guy, and he was living with us. All the time, he was at our place. Finch Handle (ph) is mine. Is he trying to take that away from me, too? I start thinking like that, and then, it's bad enough that all of the sudden -- he has -- he has bastard kids from (inaudible) daughter, and then from my cousin [Family name 1]. He wasn't even married, and he had those two kids, and there were living in Finch Handle. He built a house over there, and my Uncle Phillip, Phillip Bighead (ph), never sold the house to them or his land, and they start building on it, and here he was -- she was living in there, and he was living with us in Edzo. Like, he was really number one alcohol with my ex, all the way. He was with my ex all the way, and all of the sudden, what is he doing, got picked -- judging people of Fort Rae? He was a judge in Fort Rae in the '70s, and all of the sudden -- all of the sudden, my business is gone, my house is gone, and he's got something to do with it. Now they've got the service station, Shell
Service Station, in Fort Rae.

I was going in and out of hospital because of the accident, and those people put me in the hospital.

Vehicle accident I went through, and look what happened, what I'm going through, and then -- I went through lots, and here -- [Man 3] and Tim Caisse, that's his -- that's the Treaty 8 -- related to Treaty 8, and [Family name 1] are all related to [Man 3’s family name]. He lived with us until about maybe ten good years before my cousin married him. I don't even know if they married. So it's, like...

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: A lot of things happened in earlier '70s, in 1970 and 1971. Before that, you were raped as a teenage girl.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Then you married a man who was abusive and controlling?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: And you had a son with him?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: All this in 1970s, and you started a business.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: '70 and '71 was a significant time for you.
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: There was a lot of trauma maybe, it sounds like. We keep going back to 1970.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah, there was --

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: What else happened in 1970? Did something else happen?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: In 1970 was -- my family were living in -- before I got married, my family were living at Bay Island. Bay Island, we had the log house. My dad had a log house there until they start building houses, and then they put us in a house, one of those new houses that was built by my dad.

Like, me going back and forth, like, about -- this is about four months ago, I come back. I come back from the school, from Fort Smith School, and then -- just to put my mom in old folks' home, and then, not even a month later, my mom was dead. That's really, really afraid me, because they took the house away my dad built. My dad died in that house, and because my mom needs somebody to look after her, they had to put her in an old folks' home.

It really bothered me, when I was feeding my mom, and then she pulled out a big piece of bone. That's probably what infected her inside her stomach, and then she was put in the hospital, and like, she got well, and then, they send her back, and not long after that, she
was back, and then not long after that, she died.

Something's got to do with what they fed her or -- I start thinking of all kind of things like that, because why would my mom...

Like, she was not treated good. She was not treated good at all at old folks' home, because when I went there, she was -- you don't sit an old woman in front of -- I used to work at old folks' home in Fort Rae. You don't put an old lady in front of the table and a plate and a spoon, fork, knife, and they just ignored her. When I got there, it must have been going to 2:00, and it's, like, 12:00. Dinner was long time ago, and she's still sitting there waiting for somebody to feed her, because when I was going over there, she was going like this in her -- in her plate.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: She couldn't see?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah, and it must have took long time for her to start doing that, because she won't touch her plate until she knows her hands are clean, you know, and when I see my mom like that, sitting there, that these people are not doing their job. You know? You're supposed to feed everyone. That's why they're there. They're paid to do, and here, they treat her like that, and then they -- when I went to the hospital, I picked up some germs, too, from old folks' home.
-- I mean, from women's centre, there. From women's centre when I was staying here, and I had to go see -- visit my mom, and I picked up a bad flu because I was -- when I went back to Fort Smith to sign a paper, I couldn't even sign the paper, and the next day, I had to be back here for my appointment, my bone specialists. The bone specialist -- what was her name there? It's supposed to be here -- I'm trying to find out, what would be good for me to walk with and stuff because of the -- my shoes need some paddings inside because all this was damaged, so I always need some paddings for my feet, and my knee is sometimes is giving problems.

I have all this -- I have all this kind of problem that I have to go back and forth all the time. From women's centre to the hospital, my mom was sent in from Rae, and they couldn't even get an ambulance to even come in to take her back. My mom worked hard all her life, and here they can't even take a few minutes to bring a van in when the van was in town. The van won't even take her back. That was not even nice at all. That was her tax dollars, and that's my tax dollars, too, because she used to work at Explorer Hotel. She used to work in Yellowknife Inn, and me, too. I used to work in Yellowknife Inn, and that's how they treat people? Who wants to be in old folks' home? It shows like they might as well burn up the
old people. That's how it looks, because that's what -- 
that's what they would rather do, you know, than looking 
after old people.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: How long was your mom 
in the home?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Not even -- this was 
about -- I came back here. I was school in Fort Smith for 
a year and a half. Finally, they gave me a place. I 
waited for a place for a long time in Fort Smith, and just 
before I come here, three months before I come here, 
finally got a place, medical. Medical -- first time I got 
a placed under a medical, and then the -- I come back here, 
and then I let it go because my mom had, like -- I had to 
look for a place here, because I had no place to go to 
school from, because my mom, all of the sudden, they took 
my mom's house away.

This was about -- I was in a place there 
for about three months, and I let it go, and here, I've 
been here since nine months now. Nine months, no home, and 
finally, one month, they gave me a place in the women's 
centre. I've been harassed by all those girls, because, 
like, they're lazy, they can't even do anything, and they'd 
rather just get drunk and do drugs and call old people 
down, put them down, and they were garbage to them in the 
women's centre. Like, I would rather have my own place
than being in that kind of place, but I'm put over there because I've got no choice.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Is that where you are now?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Right now?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I've got no choice. Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: In the women's centre?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: And I'm going to half a day school at the (inaudible) -- yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: When you say "women's centre," do you mean a women's shelter?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Shelter.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: That's where you live --

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: -- right now? In a women's shelter?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: With other women?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: When you say, "they took my home," who took your home?
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: My dad built a house in Fort Rae, Behchoko, and when they put my mom in the old folks' home, they took that house back.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Who did? Who took the house?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Housing.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah, we've been in -- my dad built those houses in 1970. It's supposed to be rent-to-own, and my mom's been renting it since 1970. It's, like, all mould -- you can smell that mould from the toilet, but, you know, like, there's a big tank under the -- it's all really old, and, like, the furnace is always going. There's no heat. Like, the heat -- it's old now. Really old place in here.

They said, if we want it, we have to pay $40,000, and who would pay $40,000 for old place? My brother said if we're going to -- if you're going to take it, he told me that, "If you're going to buy it, I would just tear it down, build a new house over there." But who wants to build new house right there where all the drunks is always hanging around? Next door is always hanging around, all the drunks hang around, the (inaudible) -- I don't want to be around people that's, you know, alcoholic and stuff, because I just can't sleep. It's bad enough my
nerve is bad when I get out of there, the women's centre.

    So I've been staying at my cousin's so far
for three days, I got, so finally, I'm calm -- a little bit
calm, but you should have seen me about three days ago when
I went to my cousin's, and my nerves was just like -- I now
sleep.

    Because the place where I'm at, they're
just swearing, upstairs swearing or else there's a woman
that's staying there, they're always coming in, swearing,
like, oh, my God, you know, I have to put up with it, and
then, this young girl living with old people and swearing
at us, too. They're just like every -- it's not good at
all.

    MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: So --

    MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: That women's centre
-- women's centre and women's shelter is the same, because
they're underneath tax dollars from 1970s. Like, that was
made when -- that's where the hospital used to be, and
that's where they make that Alcoholics Anonymous. That's
the same place, and they turn it into a women's shelter and
a women's centre.

    I stayed in all those places since 1970s
since Dennis Bevington kicked us out from Edzo house, and
I've been in a hospital for check-up and stuff, and I had a
stroke in Edmonton when I was going in and out of Hope
Mission. That's another women's shelter, and another
to women's centre is another -- another one. I can't remember
what it's called. That one, too. I almost got beat up by
those girls on the street. That's why I never went back
there, because they're just like men, those girls.
Eventually, they killed an old lady in a woman's shelter,
from what I heard. I found out lots of stories about that
one, and they're trying to keep people away from the
women's shelter, because they don't want them to find out
about old woman that's been killed by two people over
there, some younger girls or something, in Edmonton.
I was in Edmonton there for about three
years, because eventually, my niece was going on the -- how
do you say? My mouth is dry.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: I'll get you some
water. Sorry, I should have offered you water sooner.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: She's one of those
kidney patients. So, you know, the machine? She's got to
be on the machine.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Dialysis?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah. So I helped
her for three years over there. She's got three little
girls, three little girls, one little baby, and another a
little bit bigger. So after that stroke, I came back here.
I just couldn't do -- I can't look after -- help her, and I
signed up for residence school in that -- what do you call it? IAP or something -- I can't remember what you call it -- with that $3,000 that's given to people to use it for computer or back to school.

I use it for -- put it in university, and then I signed up for university to -- to sign up and go back to school to university, and at Hope Mission, they were giving a turkey supper and all this. I had food poisoning for about three weeks. I was down and knowing that the money was there. So I just used that hotel to get healed -- so I used that hotel just to get healed in it, and then, after three weeks, I went back to university to see if I could still get in. They said, "No, that $3,000 credit was sent back to your (inaudible) in Yellowknife," they said.

So they just gave me a big credit, over $7,000 credit, because they pull out that $3,000. So some people got their $3,000 through computer, and I didn't. Every time I went to school, they said they'll give me a computer, and every time I signed up computer, "Oh, sorry, we gave your computer to somebody else."

It's how many years I've been trying to go to school, and they keep giving my computer to somebody else? I would have probably went through -- do all my practical on a computer and finish it, because...
MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: With this inquiry, with the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls, if you could speak to the Commissioners, if you could speak to them, what are some things you would like to say to them?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I would ask them to keep this thing going, because there's lots of them who never found their loved ones. Like, we would have not found this woman. We don't know what happened to her, nothing. There's lots out there that might not speak English or might be in shock, and we just keep missing them, and that's how it looks.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: When you were 13 years old and you were assaulted, you told your mom, and your mom -- you said there was no police. There was nobody to tell. That could have been you. You could have been killed that night.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes. Yes.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: What would your mom have done? Who would she have told? Would that have been reported?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: As an Indian, no, I don't think so.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: What do you think needs to change? If you could change that, what would you change?
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Everybody got feeling. Everybody got feeling, and if everybody got a heart, in their heart, they could see how it feels. Every day, you have to be with it, what happened to you. It's, like -- it's always there. This healing, everybody gets paid by healing and everybody gets paid by counselling and all this. What good is it? You're tortured inside your body, but the only thing you could do is just cry out, let it out, and just go on full, every day, every day, and that's when I did.

If I dwelled on it, I would have been sick. I would have not been walking. I would have been in a bad situation by now if I stopped, because of what happened. It's not the only thing. It's not the only thing that's been grabbed by -- even when I was married to my ex, I got grabbed from behind, too, by the truckers. I don't even know who they are, but that -- I couldn't even say nothing to my ex, too. What he's going to do? Kill everybody with his gun? Hillbillies and Indians don't mix. It's too much, like...

Lots of times, I would have walked back from BC, because he would not let me go, but that was the time I would have walked back because -- he's older than me. He's about six years older than me. All the things I went through -- I think he would have killed me if I tried
to beat up his girl friends. I think he really would have
killed me because...

What my son going -- went through, being
shot, it really, really hurt inside. It just bothers me.
It tears inside.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Who shot your son?
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Tim Caisse. An old
guy.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Do you want to talk
about what happened that time?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Tim Caisse lives
with [Woman 2], [Note: Woman 2 shares Family name 1].
They're number one drunk and drug addicts and stuff. They
lived for years behind Home Hardware, and he's really
abusive to his wife, and his wife is a real bad-mouthed
person. Not a real good attitude people.

I remember, when I was walking around Home
Hardware, they were always swearing at each other over
there. All of the sudden, they move halfway towards Fort
Rae. They had a shack there or something. They were
living there.

My son -- his friend is [Woman 2]'s son is
my son's best friend. He had disability issues. He had
limpings -- that kid had a limp, and my son used to say
that when his dad -- when his stepdad, they lived behind
Home Hardware, he kicked out his stepson, and he -- at 4:00 o'clock in the morning, nowhere to go, he was just freezing beside Go Range (ph), standing outside Go Range.

So he doesn't want that to happen. So he always looks for his friend when he come into town, but at that time, he went there at the wrong time. He went to their house at -- they're about mile 45 around there, I think. I think that's where they lived, and my son just happened to show up there, and I heard [Woman 2] was nowhere to be seen. She was in the bush hiding from her old man -- from shooting her. My son just got there, and my son just got shot at the door.

So it hurt, but I'd still like to know what -- what was Tim Caisse doing with a knife that he cut up my son after he shot my son, because they didn't -- they didn't even say nothing about that, and that old -- that black guy that lived next -- across from Tim Hortons, from Tim Caisse, that guy said that Tim Caisse came up with a knife and he said, "What I'm going to do with the knife? What I'm going to do with the knife," and he just looked at him, and that guy just ran and threw it across the street. That's what that guy said.

So that guy is not in on it, you could tell -- the black guy. The black guy used to -- did some work for us in Edzo, made the garage floor for us -- that
black guy. I can't remember his name, but he was a nice
black guy. He's a nice person.

Tim Caisse -- what was he doing with a
knife? I'd like to know. They didn't mention nothing
about the knife, but they mentioned that he made the gun --
he made the gun that would kill a big grizzly, they said.
He set it up. That's how it looked, and that's -- [Man 3]
is related to those people.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Your son, he wasn't
the target? It was for his wife, but your son showed up?
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah.
MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: And he's the one who
got killed?
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah.
MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Your only son? Your
only child?
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.
MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: You've had quite the
life experience. Like you've said, you've lived through
all kinds of things, and you've had all kinds of
experiences. Today, you're sharing your truth, and you're
asking the commission to carry on doing what they do.
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes, and saving
lives. My dad's always been with the forestry, the whole
forestry. He cooked. He did lots for forestry, and he was
with a carpenter, and he was with arts and crafts. He was with everything, builders -- my dad.

You know, it hurts. I can't bring back my son, but at least the -- you know, they could talk to people and be aware of things that -- you know, things can happen. You'd just be happy, and the next thing you know, you could get grabbed from behind and you don't know who is raping you. Even going to the bathroom, you can go in the bathroom and grabbed from behind, and they rape you.

All those kind of things that we went through in residence school, and we're not smiling. Even the priest got no right to touch a woman's tits, because that's how I felt when he -- they got no right to touch, and they've got no right to touch private spots. That's how we were raised, and that's why I can't believe the people that rape -- got lots of guilt, and people are lazy, they've got so much guilt that they can't even get up to even wash their face or wash their own plate. Those kind of people are looking for any reason for people to make money on people. They'll do anything just to make money on --

I worked with -- side-by-side with doctors, nurses, and we went through all kind of disease, germs, side-by-side with doctors, and some of us don't make it, and some -- a couple times I fell, just coming out of
the hospital, you know, just slipping down, even that you
don't expect to happen. One day, you're just happy, and
the next day, you're just sad because your leg is all
swollen and you can't move. That's the kind of experience
you go through every day growing up.

I saved lives, too. I saved lives. I
even -- if somebody was pregnant or some guy come and try
to beat up a pregnant woman, I would beat that person up
until I almost couldn't make him move anymore. That's how
I would -- that's how I am, because when I was --

When I was going to school, when I was --
from, like, before residence school, I was going to to
school with a whole bunch of people and coming off the --
after school, we're all holding hands going across the ice.
We didn't see the ice hole, and we all fell in on top of
each other. There must have been about five, six girls.
One was stuck in the mud and couldn't get out. I have to
pull out everybody.

I ran to a little island. There was a
log, big log sitting there. I dragged that log back and
put it across and pulled them all out, and the one never
came back out -- that was Maryrose. Maryrose Naskin.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Never made it?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah. She never
made it out, and I saw nothing, so I just -- I just jump in

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real fast and then grab her hand and pull her out. Her shoe stuck in the mud, just didn't care, just pulled her out and has got big piece of mud just stuck on her feet and got her to the -- already, we're just, like -- like, we're just stiff, like -- it's already freezing on us and all that. Our families heard us yelling. They're all running with blankets and everything. The rest of the girls made it home because I pulled them out before they froze.

When I was growing up, too, a big boat tip over with us. I made it out.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: With all of your life experience, what are some recommendations you have for the Commissioners for the Missing And Murdered Women and Girls, if you have recommendations?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I would tell them to -- the guns are for animals, not for people. Not for little kids. Not for our own kids. Not for people you love. All the things, it never go away. It never go away. When we were young, my mom and dad taught us really good. We were growing up. I seen all my brothers and sisters. I know how they are, and there was nothing wrong. We were growing up, being looked after really good. People were jealous of my mom, because she was -- she really looked after us good.

When we were young, at Bay Island, I
remember my uncle, one of my crazy uncles from Yellowknife here, he was chopping down the door of my mom's house. He was chopping the door, and he was going to kill us all, because he was jealous of my mom, looked after us, like white people. He was chopping down the door.

My mom was crying. I remember her sitting there with my two brothers or sisters, just holding them, just babies in her hands, just her tears running down, sitting there in the living room. She can't do nothing. The only door we had was upstairs through the little window. That's the only door we had, upstairs through the window, because we didn't have no way of out -- going out. My mom couldn't leave the babies. We couldn't find ways to get the babies out. It was just me and my brother, David.

My brother, David went -- he says, "I know where dad's hidden the gun and the shells." So he ran upstairs and put the shells in the gun, and he froze. My brother froze. He had the gun aimed at the uncle chopping the door down there. He just -- he froze. He couldn't even do nothing. I grabbed the gun away. Any time, he was going to break in and chop down -- chop mom up.

So I just push my brother away and grabbed the gun and just aimed at his foot, and I got his foot, and all of a sudden, I heard a big yell and he fell down, and then later on, he ran. The cops came to the house.
wondering where the gun was coming from, and we told them what was happening. It's self-defence. I told them self-defence because he was going to chop down -- chop -- he got the door. He got the door, anyway. Any time, he was ready to walk in, and my mom couldn't do nothing. It was, like -- we didn't have any way to get my mom out anyway. She was sitting there on a chair, just shocked.

That's why I never did like guns, because -- if it wasn't for a gun, I think he would have killed us all. Today, I wouldn't be here to even talk about anything. Maybe then I wouldn't worry about all this rape and all this -- we were really put in a bad spot growing up. I've seen that in my life, and it really happened with us. That's why I want nothing to do with a gun.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Would that be one of your recommendations? To have some laws about gun use or something?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: For me, I think they should have put that old man back in jail. If he was Indian, it would be 20 years, over -- like, hanging. I can't believe it. That guy got not even five years, and he's out and got a house and everything. Like, he kissed one of those lawyers' ass. That's how it looks. That's how it looks. All those lawyers are going to be facing God some day, so I don't need to go down and make them, you...
know, please themselves, because we are human. We're not animals. We know when people's going to hurt others. We stay away from them.

Already seen that in -- when I was growing up in Edzo, one of the cousins that was raised with us, her name was Margaret Naskin (ph). This guy -- this guy, he was living with, and all of the sudden, this guy was jealous. He came home and just shot her, just like that, and today, I don't see no sorrow in that guy. He's still walking the street. Like, how many years he was in jail for shooting her?

And he got more than -- more than 20 years, because that kid is, like, 40 years old now, and this woman was shot in the '80s, and I can't believe it, you know, like, this white guy. Not even five years, he was out. I wonder whose ass he's been kissing to, you know -- and how much money he got paid to do that to my son so they can take that Shell Oil Company away? That's my company.

I'm a lady. I'm a woman. Because of how I was taught, I don't look back at anybody and think, like, everybody's better than me. I'm just like same as everybody. That's how I looked at it.

I am a teacher and a nurse, and I -- I drive myself all the way to Red Deer and back, worked there.
at Mission Centre for maybe one week, and then one week in Rae, and I was working here, like, in Explorer Hotel, every position, every job, and then, in Red Deer, I was working in banquets and Red Deer Lodge and Zellers. In Bay, they're always working in every position. I translate for the cops and the police and teachers and nurses and the priest.

Today I'm talking about it because I'm alive. If my mom was here to listen to me, to hear me today, I would be really, really happy to say thank you to mom for raising me good -- and my dad. They raised me really good. They didn't taught me to touch people's tits or penis or their cunts or their -- every areas. It's wrong to touch a woman in the back, bad areas, even men's, and we were taught like that.

And here, everybody thinks Indians, they all sleep with each other. We're not like [discriminatory speech - two lines redacted]. We're human. We're human, and I want the whole world to hear we are human. No many how many school I go to, they're not going shut me down. I'm a tax dollar.

Because of them killing my son, because of that guy is not in jail for long time, and because I am disability from school year, all the roads, I want all the roads of Northwest Territories and Alberta and BC -- all
those roads underneath my son, David Austin, because he was the only one I worked for all my life. He's my reason why I was driving for all my people and my -- for medical, rushing back and forth. That was for my sister, my blind sister, and I always kept her underneath Indigenous persons because of her condition, and I bought whole bunch of shares underneath her name, Angelina Gon, a whole bunch of shares for our office in Fort Rae, underneath David Austin, underneath all the Austins and Gons. I bought shares. The office would not be taken away from our people. We are who we are.

I drove to Echo Bay. I seen so much miners over there. I never, ever been scared in my life, but that was a scary part. I've never seen not even one woman over there. I was the only truck driver over there in the 1970s, and just to eat in a restaurant, I was so scared. I almost had a heart attack going down the stairs. Lots of stairs going down, this small. Everybody's trying to grab my hair and trying to grab me. I've never been so scared, but that's the kind of fear I had when they shot my son.

That was the scary part. It's like everybody can pile up on you. Nobody would know. And I did that all the way over to Echo Bay, haul things for people. Any woman that have enough guts would do something
like that? I doubt it. In the '70s over there, I was hauling gas for Ron's Auto Service over here. When I was coming into town, they had no gas in town, and there's Esso going -- Esso truck was going to Fort Rae, taking gas to Ernie Stanton's Service Station in Rae.

When I was passing that truck, there was two kids -- I remember there was two kids in the truck. I think it was Robinson Trucking. Just when I passed them, I seen that -- just when I looked in the window, this big explosion. The truck just exploded behind me. It was fully loaded -- that was the Esso truck.

I could just imagine how those families felt seeing their kids burnt up a truck like that. It's still -- still is with me, that, too. Just all I could do is pray for them. People that are gone, that's all we could do is pray for them.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Lina, there's a bag there beside you. You could put that in there. It's also for your tears and whatever, and there's Kleenex here.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Thank you. Today, January 28th --

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Today is the 23rd.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I mean, 23rd. On this weekend, it's going to be my birthday. I'm going to be 63 years old. All I could do is -- it hurts, because my
son's not here with me. I don't have no grandchildren. I

I can't even do too much with cramping up

and stuff. All you could do is just tell your stories. I
can't even walk to school without cramping up. My ankle's
no good. There's no -- they never even give me any

transportation. They never help me with medical, flying
back and forth. The first time they help me in Fort Smith,
fly here, first time in my life, hospital, hoping to --
just to fly to -- all my life I never got help with
medical, nothing, just to fly and even to see. Like, even,
to even get tickets for this and everything I did was on my
own, out of my own pocket, even trucks.

In Red Deer, I had a vehicle going back

and forth until that -- some Eskimo woman, which I think
the cops should look into -- her name was [Woman 2] and Mr.
[Man 4]. They're both married couple, and they were using
their own name. Here, they were stealing off people's
cheques, welfare cheques, family allowance, all the
workers' cheques. They even forged my signature on my car;
so I got no car to go back and forth. I had no way of
going back and forth to even teach, and I went to see the
cop station to see if they've seen that woman. They told
me, "Come back in ten years, maybe more." Because she was
in jail.

I don't have time for that. I hope they really look into everything, what they have done to these Indians. I go back to Rae to teach, and then they -- the cops stopped me over there. They put me in jail for three days because they don't know me, and they told me I have to pay $500 to get out because they don't know me. Yeah, in my own hometown, Behchoko.

I didn't even have $500 so I told the band to put my shares on the line for $500, and then, when I get out, they're going to return it, they said, and they never did. It's still in the cop station, my shares. It's about -- I don't know, five, maybe five shares or more since 1970s, around there, I bought and never got that returned, and I bought a whole bunch of shares for my sister, and I got that one. That ones I got returned, underneath my sister and my mom. We used it, and when mine -- mine is gone to the cops and it never got returned yet.

Underneath my shares, it's Lina Gon-

Austin. My married name was Austin. So underneath that, my shares should be put back to the complex, and it should be put back -- it should be counted with it from '70s, still, because of that stupid cop's mistake. They tried to say they don't know me so they can make money on an Indian,
and this is Indian tax.

So, in other words, this Indian wiped their ass. That's how I look at it. I'd rather wash dirty diapers in old hospital than wiping somebody's ass for their mistake. That's how it looks.

They just used me. They never paid me. Social Services never paid me to do their job at Mission centre. People that are not all there shouldn't be staying at women's centre. That's my tax dollars. They should send them all to my grandmother's twin sister -- twin sister in (inaudible). That's where those kind of people, lazy people, should be living in, and the ones that seizures. They should be living in there, not torturing people at women's centre and can't sleep. You don't even know who can run into you going to to a washroom and stuff, and womans could be lesbians, and how we know what women are? What womans? They should have all one place for only alcoholic and one place for smoking, every -- for smoking, and one for drugs, and one for just old people sleeping, need to sleep.

I used to work in old folks' home. Nobody died when I worked there for over a year. I can't believe this, you know, like, what they're doing to us. I don't know how to put it anymore.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Do you think this is
a good time to stop, or is there more that you would like
to say? We've covered a lot today. We talked about some
disabilities, how people with disabilities are not treated
well.

    MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

    MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: We talked about
violence against women.

    MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

    MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: It goes unreported.

We talked about violence against your son and how you feel
justice wasn't served. We talked about violence in
relationships, your personal relationships. We've covered
a lot, and you've talked a lot about your experience in the
surrounding area, in this area, and also in Alberta and in
BC. You talked about your injury.

    One of the things that we did not talk
about is the support systems that are available for you.

There are support systems available. It sounds like you
did a lot of things on your own, and you stood alone. You
don't have to stand alone anymore. There's lots of
support. If you're interested, I could make a referral
with the ladies downstairs if you're interested, and
they'll touch base with you after the inquiry.

    MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes.

    MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: We can do that. If
we're ready to close, I don't know if you are or not, but
if you're ready, I would like to present you with a gift on
behalf of the inquiry. If you have more to say, the floor
is still open. We can go as long as you want. What are
your thoughts? Should we keep going?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I went through a
residence school hearing, too, already, and I made
statement of what's been done to us and stuff like that. I
don't know how to put any more words than that, because I
do miss my son a lot, my dad, my mom, and my sister Angie.

My son was born February 15, 1971. My
mom's name is Mary Adele, Mary Adele Able, before she was
married, and my dad's name is Joseph, Joseph Gon. I had,
with me, six sisters and six brothers. My mom raised her
own brothers and sisters with us. I was raised in Finch
Handle and dog teams, and my two grandpas at the bridge of
Finch Handle. Never forget them, my two grandpas.

Can I use the washroom, please?

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Yes. We'll just put
a pause on this.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yes. Well, we're
finished.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: We're done?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Yeah.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Our machine quit on
MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I see it. Thank you.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: I'm just going to try to pause this. Let's see if I know what I'm doing here. --- (Off-record)

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Hi, Lina. We just had a few minutes' break, but you're telling me that we're done. We're finished. It's now 4:45 p.m., and we'll just close off. I just wanted to give you -- this was a gift that is presented on behalf of the commission for sharing your story.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Thank you.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Thank you. We'll turn this off. I think we lost our video, though. Do you have anything to say? Anything final? We're done?

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: I just hope people gets the Commissioners listening. I hope they recognize some people and keep their stories going, not give up, because we don't want our kids to suffer when we're gone anymore, even great-grandchildren and all the nephews, and all the auntie's kids, all the uncle's kids. We don't want people to suffer no more. We were not really well-nourished at residence school. We were not fed good. We don't want that anymore.
Thank you for listening to me, and I hope they do something about people that try to get away with things, not let them get away with things, because all my life I work, 8:00 o'clock in the morning until 8:00 o'clock at night. It doesn't matter. After that, I got called; I went in and worked. I expect that from anybody, not sit on their ass and expect everything handed out. If they can't do it, they should be getting some counselling, not people like us that's hurt doing their dirty job for them. Thank you.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Thank you, Lina. It is now 4:49.

MS. LINA GON-AUSTIN: Thank you.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Thank you.

--- Whereupon the statement concluded at 4:54 p.m.
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best of my skill and ability, accurately transcribed from a pre-existing recording the foregoing proceeding.

Ren Zacchigna, Certified transcriptionist