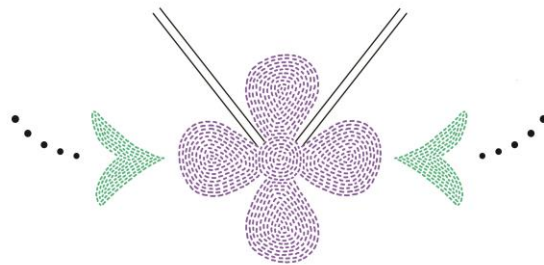


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Chateau Nova Hotel
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**



PUBLIC

Thursday January 25, 2018

Statement - Volume 210

**Lawrence Beaulieu,
In relation to Bertha Beaulieu & Frances Beaulieu**

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

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Statement gatherer: Kerrie Reay

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

2 --- Upon commencing on January 25, 2018

3 at 3:02 p.m.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Lawrence, so
5 you're ready?

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yes.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So as I
8 explained, I am just going to read into the record who
9 you are, and I have you are Dene from Fort Resolution?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yes.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So today this
12 is Kerrie Reay, it is -- I am statement taker with the
13 National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered
14 Indigenous Women and Girls. It is January the 25th at
15 Yellowknife at 3:02 and today with me is Lawrence
16 Beaulieu, Dene First Nation, and a resident from Fort
17 Resolution, currently now living in Yellowknife.

18 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yes.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: And Lawrence is here
20 today to speak of his two sisters who have passed away,
21 Bertha in 1980 from --

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: 1988.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: 1988 from alcohol?

24 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yes.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: And Francis who

1 passed away in 1990.

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: And Francis passed
4 from an overdose, a drug overdose?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I don't know,
6 they wouldn't let us open the casket or the nothing,
7 they said, so I don't know what happened.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And also in
9 the room today is sorry [R.T.]. I flipped the page,
10 sorry. [R.T.].

11 MS. [R.T.]: [R.T.].

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: [R.T.] is here as a
13 health support for Mr. Beaulieu. And just to confirm
14 that you are willing to have your truth shared both on
15 an audio recording and a video recording.

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yes.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And that you are
18 comfortable with it being public?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yes, I'm not --

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Lawrence, as
21 we talk, this is your time, this is your truth and your
22 space, and I invite you to start whenever you're ready?

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, I would
24 like to start from right -- remember, (inaudible) 50
25 miles from Fort Resolution called Gene River (sp), and

1 from there I remember I think my dad and mom got a
2 letter because things are going out of whack, like, you
3 know, they're getting mad and then they are crying, and
4 they said that we had to move to Fort Resolution. We
5 had to re-locate to Fort Res. And anyways, they sent me
6 ahead, I was pretty young, you know, 1959 I think, or
7 1960, and I was staying with my aunt and uncle, and you
8 know, every night I go to bed alone, I was six years
9 old, seven years old. And then finally my mom and dad,
10 they moved into Fort Res 1961 I think, '60, and they, my
11 dad bought a -- bought a little caboose, and that's
12 where we lived. Our family got bigger and bigger, and
13 then finally, my dad worked with, I don't know, it was
14 an Indian agent, so they built 20 house, log house, and
15 we got one. You know, we're living pretty good, you
16 know, like, we had lots of groceries in those days, you
17 know, trapping was our job. And my dad did good, I
18 know, you know, like, when we were living in Gene River,
19 I'll take that back any day for the day how I lived and
20 we had everything. But anyways, we had to re-locate to
21 Fort Res, and once we moved into Fort Res everything
22 sort of falling apart, you know, like, we -- my dad had
23 to go look for a job because things slowed down at
24 trapping and all that. So they had to live in Fort Res,
25 you can't go trapping 250 miles away.

1 Anyways, we started school anyways and
2 we were going to school I think it's 1963 or -- anyways,
3 I remember that by the -- I think Robert Kennedy got
4 assassinated that time, I remember that because I was
5 in -- in that receiving home in the basement, I was
6 sleeping by myself, and I felt very uncomfortable, I
7 know. All night I cried because they said the world is
8 going to end, war. So anyways, I remember that, and
9 then -- but before that, what they did is they pick it
10 up in school, they gather us up, all five of us, my two
11 brothers and my two sisters, they put us in one room,
12 and I don't know, they said they were starving I guess,
13 and they had all kinds of food there, we were there
14 about, I think three or four hours, but we never touched
15 nothing, we knew what was going on. The sun went down,
16 and I know, I look, I looked in the one window there,
17 and the airport lights were on, and they -- they took us
18 all -- all five of us. The cops took us. And I
19 remember my dad standing out -- and they put me in the
20 plane first (inaudible) I could see my dad standing
21 there one cop was holding him back. He just full of
22 tears, his (inaudible) shining of tears and telling the
23 cop, kiss my babies at least, but they didn't let him.
24 That's when we left. We left for 10 years, never saw
25 them, my dad, they come visit me, but I had to go to see

1 him someplace else, they wouldn't let him go to that
2 home, I don't know why.

3 And after I got to Fort Smith, things
4 are pretty good, you know, for about a year,
5 year-and-a-half. And then they separate us. They put
6 my two sisters -- they put in receiving home, they call
7 a group home now, and they put my two sisters in the
8 receiving home. They took my two brothers there in
9 Breynat Hall Residential School. That's why, you know,
10 they're going to kill themselves drinking the way I
11 think, you know, and when I was in that home, it was
12 pretty, pretty violent. I mean, you know, the
13 supervisors are mean to the -- especially to the little
14 ones. So anyways, that's why they separate us because I
15 was getting, mean with them too.

16 Like today, a lot of people told me
17 how come you never smile. I am happy, but I can't
18 smile. But, you know, my two sisters went through lots.
19 You know, once in a while I see them, maybe three times
20 a year sometimes. And I go visit them later on, you
21 know, like after it got 16, I didn't really care, they
22 let me, I walked right in that receiving home, I think.
23 And I go kiss them, and they're both holding me,
24 sometimes they cry, when are we going home? I said, I
25 don't know. Soon to make them happy, but that's why

1 something happened in there to end up in the Edmonton
2 street to die down there the way they died. My sister
3 Bertha suffered. She was in the hospital. I was in
4 Yellowknife here, my mom told me; I heard your sister is
5 dying. So I grabbed her, I said get me tomorrow, go see
6 social worker. We went to the social worker, we walk
7 in. I don't know, today I think about it, the way they
8 grab that phone there. I said, you know, my mom said
9 you want to go see her daughter before she passes away.
10 Just wait, Alice, she said. I remember grabbing that
11 phone, and she phoned. And then she said, can I speak
12 to a doctor right away to talk to that doctor, and I
13 think it was a lie the way I look at it. They told them
14 my mom, oh, Bertha is going to be okay. Anyway, my mom
15 was just happy, I remember I drop her off at the coffee
16 shop and smiling and three hours later, I pick her up,
17 and you know, she said -- I picked her up, she was just
18 smiling, happy, I took her home, you know, I didn't live
19 with her that time, I was living uptown. A couple days
20 later, I went to pick her up. Holy, I walk in there and
21 she was just crying. What happened mom? Bertha passed
22 away. See, that's what the system didn't -- they should
23 have let her see her, she could have felt better.

24 Until the day she died, my mom she is
25 always talking about that, crying about it. You know, I

1 know how it felt like. Even, you know, and Francis same
2 thing, when she came to Bertha's funeral, Bertha, I
3 talked to -- tried to talk to her, boy, it's hard to
4 get -- she was in to that drug, heavy drug, I guess. I
5 talked to her, she agreed with me and everything. Next
6 thing I know, she was on a plane, I heard, last time I
7 saw her, and you know, she fell through the system. You
8 know, I just wanted to bring that up because must have
9 been, they must have went through lots, the way I went
10 through.

11 And I -- you know, until today,
12 nothing was dealt about mine, so I didn't, no, I just
13 wanted my nieces and nephews to know their mother, they
14 had a good mother. She didn't run away. The system
15 failed. That's what happened to them. That's why they
16 came back in the box. And then not just that, but you
17 know, there is one more thing I got to go back after we
18 left residential -- I mean, we got picked up about two
19 or three years later, we got a call, my oldest brother
20 cut himself on account of this. He couldn't take it.
21 Yeah, that's what happened, you know, nothing, even my
22 dad, his oldest son is gone, all his kids were gone,
23 they stole us away; instead of trying to help us.

24 Trying to think -- I think I told the
25 important parts what happened to them. My nieces and

1 nephew, you know, they'll understand now, can you tell
2 them. Yeah, there are so many things, you know, like,
3 in their -- especially when they're in the same home and
4 I live in the basement and I could hear your sister
5 crying upstairs, you know, getting strapped or whatever,
6 nothing. Just for saying the wrong word.

7 Not as -- not just my two sisters, my
8 brothers, I see the other ones are suffering. And
9 today, I check -- I check around for the all the people
10 that were in there, there's not so much of them alive
11 today. So I hope those people they, you know, do
12 something for themselves or you know, so they
13 don't -- so they can help their families too by telling
14 their stories and that --

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: So when you -- before
16 you went to Fort Res and you lived in Gene River?

17 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Gene River,
18 yeah.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you remember,
20 because you said you went to Fort Resolution about the
21 age of six, dough have any memories of what it was like
22 in Gene River?

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Gene River was
24 number 1, they had everything, we had moose meet,
25 buffalo, you name it, we had it.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Was that where your
2 dad built all the houses?

3 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah, my
4 grandpa like, you know, they built that town.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I think 1800,
7 you know, something.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: There was 12
10 village there's on the south Great Slave Lake?

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

12 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I know at
13 the end, there was only four left, Russ River, Buffalo
14 River, Gene River and Little Fishery, and the rest Peter
15 Pond came in to wipe us out. He wiped out eight towns.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: Who did, sorry?

17 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Peter Pond.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: He brought in
20 chickenpox blanket.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: That's what
23 happened to most of my people.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: So the people lived
25 on the land, took care of themselves?

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, my -- we
2 had a big boat. My grandfather had one of those big
3 boats, he ran -- he never sold his fur in Fort Res,
4 Hudson Bay, he took it all the way to Winnipeg.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah. Yeah, I
7 remember that big boat he used to travel on, you know,
8 on the side there, that hot water used to come out,
9 boiling water. We used to make hot chocolate with it, I
10 guess, I'm still okay today.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: And so as the -- as a
12 small young boy, life was good in Gene River is what I'm
13 hearing you say?

14 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I was so
15 happy, wake up happy.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: But you weren't the
17 oldest?

18 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, my brother
19 George was the oldest.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And then who
21 came -- who was born after George?

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: There was two
23 of them before George, but they both passed away too.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Being little?

25 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: So I think
3 there's about 14 of us in the family.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. But you
5 speak -- because you said when you were about six.

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, we talk
7 Chip.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: You went to Fort
9 Resolution where you stayed with your aunt and uncle?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: And all you're aware
12 of is there was some letters sent.

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: That required you
15 even though you weren't the oldest?

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: That you had to go
18 there?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, because
20 once you were school age. If you don't go to school,
21 then -- I think the letter says tell if the kids don't
22 go to school, you can both go to jail, yeah, that's
23 why --

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: And do you know why
25 George didn't go to --

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Well, George
2 was the oldest one, and he was already taught
3 for trapping and that.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: So he was quite a bit
5 older than you?

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, way, and
7 he was already trapping and that, you know, in those
8 days, trapping, one of the top jobs because --

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: So you went to live
10 with your uncle in Fort Resolution?

11 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: And then your parents
13 and your younger sisters and your younger brother came
14 to the Fort Resolution as well?

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.
16 They had to because the kids are getting old, school
17 age.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. School age,
19 and so I'm just sort of putting it in context for the
20 commissioners in terms of a bit of a time line because
21 what you've shared so far is so critically important to
22 have the insight of a family who was doing very well to
23 then have their children removed to go to school?

24 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, mmhmm.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: So when you were in

1 Fort Resolution your two sisters, two brothers and
2 yourself?

3 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Now, you went to Fort
5 Smith?

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they grab
7 us in school.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And in Fort
9 Smith, you all went to a receiving home?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Is that when you
12 could hear your sisters upstairs when you first went to
13 the receiving home?

14 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And then you talk
18 about that your two sisters went somewhere else?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they went
20 to receiving home.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Another receiving
22 home?

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

25 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: They built a

1 big one there, so, yeah.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And your
3 brothers went to somewhere else?

4 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: They went to Peten
6 (sic)?

7 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they went
8 to Breynat Hall.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Breynat Hall.

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah,
11 residential school.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: And where did you go?

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I stayed in the
14 group home.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: You stayed --

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: They changed it
17 to a group home.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: The receiving
20 home.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they sent
23 me there.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: So being so young,
25 did you have any idea how your brothers went to

1 residential school, where did you go school if you were
2 at the receiving home, at the group home?

3 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Well, the first
4 time they sent me -- well, the first time, they sent
5 me -- after a little, they sent me to Breynat Hall, but
6 then the way they were treating my brothers, so I was
7 getting aggrieve with the priest, there was a priest
8 there. And I told them, I says, you know, what's going
9 on, I said, every time there's a movies, they don't go
10 movies, it's -- nobody wants to miss movies in those
11 days. Every times there's movies and I go in there and
12 I don't see them in there, so I go upstairs you know, I
13 bring them downstairs watch a movie. They don't do
14 nothing but they know how to do it, next year I didn't
15 come back, so they really did them in, I guess.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: As children did you
17 talk about what was happening for yourselves in the
18 different schools, like, when you -- like, did you come
19 together in the summers or did you stay there?

20 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah, in
21 the summer, like, in the residential school, they bring
22 them back to the group home, the two boys, yeah, they
23 bring them back, back and forth, that's what -- you
24 know, we all wanted to go home.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did they talk --

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: They never --

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did they talk about
3 what was happening in the school, your brothers?

4 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, you know,
5 we get together. When we get together, they always want
6 to know, they want to get out of here.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Did they
8 share any secrets what was happening at the residential
9 school?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, they
11 wouldn't tell me nothing.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did you sense
13 something was wrong?

14 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I knew
15 something, you know --

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: What did you think?

17 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: They looked so
18 pitiful, they never smiled when I see them. But they
19 wouldn't tell us, you know, those days, the priests or
20 those guys must have had them because they're pretty
21 mean, you knows when they look, especially small boys.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Now, I'm not familiar
23 with Fort Smith. Did you see your sisters if you were
24 in a group home and they were --

25 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah,

1 later on.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did you see them?

3 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they
4 won't let me go over there first time, but later on,
5 after I turned 16, oh, yeah, I go see them.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: You went to see them?

7 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, when I
8 get lonesome for them, I go see them and I go -- I go
9 right in there or we go sit outside.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Did they
11 ever --

12 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: They never
13 talked nothing like that, but they're happy to see me,
14 that's it. They don't talk about --

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: What happened?

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And so then as you
18 were 16, when were you able to go home, back to Fort
19 Resolution?

20 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I just about
21 19.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: When you were 19.

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Just about.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Just about 19.

25 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I think it was

1 April. That's when I went to Fort Res for Easter. When
2 we got to Easter holidays, yeah, I remember.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: And your
4 parents -- sorry.

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, when we
6 got there for Easter, I just stayed there and hid. We
7 had to hide until June, and then until one day there, my
8 uncle -- I stayed with my uncle, and one day, they're
9 knocking on the door. He said, they're here. I said
10 don't worry, I'm not going to bother, and I could hear
11 my uncle went to the door there. Opened the door just
12 wide enough to talk to them, what do you want? He told
13 them. It was welfare and the cops and my uncle told
14 them, what do you want. Oh, I heard Lawrence Beaulieu
15 is staying here. No, he says, Lawrence Beaulieu, I give
16 him a ski-doo, I give him a ski-doo suit, everything,
17 sleigh, blanket, tent, he's gone on the trap, he said,
18 if you want to find him, he says, go on the land. And
19 they turn around right there, and about 15 minutes, I
20 heard the plane flying away, gave up on us, I guess. My
21 brother too, run away, [Brother 1], so we stayed away,
22 and my brother [Brother 2], I think, about four years,
23 five years later, only then he got out. I don't think
24 go until 19 or 20.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: So [Brother 1] and

1 [Brother 2] came back to Fort Resolution?

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, because
3 [Brother 1] stayed in Fort Res, and when [Brother 2] got
4 out, straight to Yellowknife here.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So [Brother
6 2], and where is [Brother 2] now?

7 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: He's on -- he's
8 at home.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: He's homeless.
11 But they gave him a home. But right now, he's right at
12 the edge.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: What do you mean by
14 the edge?

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: So much booze,
16 you know, like --

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: More alcohol?

18 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: -- you know,
19 get the boot.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

21 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Not just that
22 too, it's not too healthy now too. He's -- he goes to
23 the hospital every once or two or three times a month,
24 you know, blacking out --

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, dear. Oh, dear.

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: -- of alcohol.
2 And not eating enough I guess.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: And your sisters,
4 they came back to Fort Resolution?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: My sisters,
6 they went straight here too, them, and then they went to
7 Fort Res to visit my dad. I think they only saw my dad
8 just a couple of weeks and then they left there, they
9 came back here.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: When you say here,
11 back to Yellowknife?

12 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, some are
13 married here and everything. They both have two kids
14 and Francis moved to Fort Simpson, she stayed there and
15 I don't know how they made plans, but they met in
16 Edmonton. And then just like we lost them, they hid in
17 the streets in Edmonton, they don't find them.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: So did they leave the
19 families to --

20 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they
21 left two kids on both sides. They moved to Edmonton,
22 and they just, you know, forgot about everything like,
23 and I don't know, that's how the system did to her, she
24 left, I know that. The drinking will just cover
25 everything.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah, and these are
2 the truths that need to be told about the impact of what
3 residential school did to the lives of all those
4 children and the families and children like yourself?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.
6 You know, like --

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: So do you remember
8 about when the two sisters went to Edmonton? Did they
9 go together or did one of them go?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they met
11 over there.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Because they --

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: When do you think --

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I guess they
16 were talking here I guess, you know, we're going to
17 meet, we're going to take off, whatever, I guess, and
18 all of a sudden, my mother said, they just disappeared
19 and --

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did you hear from
21 them very often?

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Well, it's not
23 just that, too, they couldn't get a job or nothing
24 around here, they tried. You know how it is sometimes,
25 you know, they don't give jobs to outsiders they call

1 us, and then that's when they took off, they had no --

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: So did, so when you
3 say jobs weren't available for them because jobs didn't
4 go to outsiders, speaks of racism and discrimination?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

6 That's racism, you
7 know --

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Would you
9 like -- would you like to share that experience?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Well, it
11 happened to me too.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mmhmm.

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: You know, like,
14 I worked with the government on the highways for quite a
15 while, 1989, and like, when I -- like, some years they
16 don't take me back because I'm working some place, and
17 in 1990, 2010 and they turned around, they wanted to get
18 rid of me, I know. And I turned 58, they wanted me to
19 get class one, you know, she should told me when I was
20 35. Why now, you know?

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mmhmm.

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: So that's what
23 I see, you know, racism, jealousy. Since I sober up,
24 just like I lost everything.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: And when did that

1 happen for you? You said you sobered up, when did that?

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Sobered up
3 1995.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: 1995.

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Twenty-one
6 years.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Congratulations,
8 that's an achievement. That's a big achievement.

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I wouldn't be
10 here otherwise, you know, if I drank.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: And so alcohol and
12 drugs became a -- became a significant factor in the
13 lives of you and your siblings, not that you all did
14 drugs and alcohol, but you know, you said one sister
15 died of a drug overdose that you believe?

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Well, they went
17 down south, heavy drugs.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: But you did make a
19 comment to come back to that you believed that your
20 sister died of a drug overdose but they wouldn't let you
21 have an open coffin.

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah. In
23 Vancouver, she moved to Vancouver just before she passed
24 away.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, so Francis moved

1 to Vancouver?

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, she
3 couldn't take Edmonton, lonesome for Bertha.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Lonesome for Bertha.

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: So she went to
7 Vancouver.

8 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you know
10 whether -- where she lived in Vancouver?

11 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No. I think
12 skid row.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: The downtown east
14 side. Did the family hear much from her once she --

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: We heard she
16 took off down there, you know --

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And that was all?

18 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: We couldn't
19 locate her. The only time we knew where she was when
20 they brought her back.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: And you said when
22 they brought her back that they wouldn't allow an open
23 coffin?

24 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Was there any

1 explanation as to why?

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I don't know, I
3 think my mom said she had, I don't know sickness, that's
4 what she said. That's all she said. I think AIDS were
5 just coming out at that time too, yeah. Yeah, all those
6 things were coming.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: And for you, how
8 does that feel not being able -- like, do you feel that
9 things haven't been closed for you, that there hasn't
10 been closure?

11 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Nothing.
12 Nothing. Like, even, you know, my mother passed away
13 and just four years ago now.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mmhmm.

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: And I never
16 grieved yet because my family has bothered me for her
17 house that I inherited.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. And are you
19 the only surviving child?

20 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, there was
21 eight of us still.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah. And I'm
24 the oldest, and I took care of her too.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: All the way
2 back, 40 years I moved here. I think just about every
3 day I was at her house.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: A loving son?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: A loving son?

7 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I brought
8 her my daughter, that's what she likes, it keeps her
9 alive, keeps her happy.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: So you have a
11 daughter?

12 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, two of
13 them.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Two.

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, the
16 oldest one is 31, she's got five kids, five children,
17 and my youngest one is 26, she's having a baby in May.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So you'll be a
19 grandpa again?

20 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, papa they
21 call me.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Papa.

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Sounds like a
24 little Mexican.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: And they bring you

1 some joy?

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Oh, yeah, I
3 think they keep me alive, happy.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: But there's still a
5 sadness, I sense?

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, there's
7 always a sadness when they go home and start thinking,
8 like, you know, I've been thinking about since [R.T.]
9 said they are have a meeting here, you know. So I'm
10 here, you know, just go whatever.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, it takes a lot of
12 courage.

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Lots of courage to
15 come and share your truth?

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, I wanted to
17 share because they're not forgotten.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: No, no.

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they're
20 always in my heart.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: And this is an
22 opportunity to voice, to have a voice.

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: To tell and to share
25 that hurt and that anger?

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: A lot of things
2 are done backwards too, like, you know, my mother she
3 got a cheque after she passed away. Now we're having a
4 hard time trying to get it from the government. They're
5 asking me all kinds of questions, you know, wrong
6 questions. (Inaudible) yeah, she got you know,
7 she's -- she got sexually abused in school.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: So your mom was part
9 of -- your mom went to residential school?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah, she
11 was in there seven years.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: And your dad?

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: My dad, no.
14 Him he was a trapper.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: So he was out on the
16 land, so they couldn't find him?

17 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, but he was
18 old enough by the time the rules came in. You know, he
19 was already married. This stuff here came in, '50s,
20 '60s.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Residential school?

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, way back,
23 yes.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, but not up here.

25 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Up here, they

1 were living out in the bush and we had good dogs, nobody
2 could catch them.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: That's what I was
4 suggesting is that they couldn't catch you or find you?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, he's got
6 all kinds of, you know, cabs and everything, you know,
7 how are they going to find him, fast dogs and --

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did your mom ever
9 talk about residential school?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Oh, yeah, she
11 did, everything, she'd talk about a lot of stuff in
12 there. She said, they didn't feed you good at all back
13 in those days.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: You know, they
16 give you hung fish, she said. You know, like, my uncle
17 talk about it my mom, they said they give you fish, if
18 you don't eat it, they bring it back at breakfast. And
19 that's when my uncle got kicked out, he said -- he told
20 the other boys, he said if that nun ever brings that dry
21 fish to me again, I'm going to knock her out, and he
22 did. That's how he got out of residential school.
23 Yeah, that residential is really --

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: One of the things
25 that, you know, we also see is that some -- some

1 survivors of residential school end up in the justice
2 system?

3 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: You know, it's a, you
5 know, keeping it all closed in and the pain, and even as
6 you speak, I can feel the pain that you carry with you?

7 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah. Yeah.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: And was --

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: My uncle I just
10 mentioned there, that knocked out that nun, he spent, I
11 think, most of his life in jail.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: At the end, he
14 got married and he's got, I think, three boys and a
15 couple of girls, and he straightened out his life, he
16 sobered up. When he sobered up, no more jail.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Again, we talk about
18 the substance, the alcohol and the drugs --

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- you used to cope
21 with the pain, used to try to get rid of the burden?

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.

23 This is --

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: So what changed for
25 you in 1995 when you decided you were done with the --

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Well, you know,
2 I was -- we had two young girls I told you, and one
3 was -- one was five and the other one was one year old,
4 and you know, I start thinking, took me about three
5 years to quit, but I always thought about it and my
6 mother didn't like when I drank and me too, you know,
7 getting really sick and every time I drank you know, two
8 days, three days I never eat either. So, you know, I
9 had two girls there, what kind of life are you going to
10 have? And the words always go back to my dad. He
11 always told me don't let that alcohol be the boss, and
12 that's what I did. There was a healing place there Dena
13 (ph), that's what I did. I checked in. Boy, it was set
14 up good, it healed me. Why they shut it down. After it
15 healed me and after about two or three years later, they
16 shut it down, they said it wasn't working.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Wow, you're a
18 testament that it did work?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, it did
20 work, you know, I'm here, 21 years later.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, yes.

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: And I see that
23 woman that healed me she is maybe 20 years younger than
24 me, and she is in Welladay School (ph) right now. She
25 just -- she's not doing too much Lawrence, she said, you

1 know what, maybe we'll go down, do a story, you
2 (inaudible) so I said yeah any time you're ready, I'm
3 ready. So maybe they should give her a job, you know,
4 like, open up that some place, I'll help her. That's
5 what she told me, let's go open up a healing place, you
6 know, you could teach them. Because you know, like, to
7 see a Native in there doing something you are healing.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mmhmm. Right.

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I was
10 taught by white, you know, boy. They did a good job
11 every -- it took everything out of me anyways and I had
12 a big pile of papers like that. I should have kept it
13 for residential school, I was thinking that, and we
14 burned it anyway. Took everything out of me. But they
15 told me I was -- I was hanging on to my brother yet, my
16 oldest brother.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Was that who his
18 life?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, his name
20 is George, yeah. Every time I tell my story, I always
21 go back to him.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: And when did George
23 pass away?

24 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Probably
25 '60 -- I don't know, I was in Hay River that time, I saw

1 him in Hay River, he was around 16 or 15, I saw him in
2 Hay River.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: So what year would
4 that have been then?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: '66, '67 I
6 think.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: '67?

8 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: And that was the last
10 time you saw him?

11 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, then they
12 go to Hay River Carnival. Takes that little bus. They
13 came for the -- you know, Fort Res it's pavement, says
14 no problem, he says, I'll have a room in Hay River, as
15 soon as you get there, look for me. I went (inaudible),
16 sitting there, give me the key, he even give me the
17 truck. I had no license, but --

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Away you went?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Took me over
20 there.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: So how did you get
22 from residential school to Hay River?

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Bus.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: That little bus
25 you're talking about?

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I was
2 working in Fort Smith, you know, Paul Kaiser (ph) since
3 I was 13.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: They let you work
5 while you were at residential school?

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, in the
7 group home.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: In the group home?

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Right.

11 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I wanted
12 to work, I wanted to make money. I had two brothers
13 that were there, I wanted to give them money, you know,
14 wanted to buy clothes and dress pretty pitiful, one
15 style clothes they all wear. So I used to go in there,
16 you know, I think jeans were 3.50 or \$4.00. I used to
17 get them one each, holy man, I just remember proud of
18 it. And those shirts are like this, you know, they make
19 it nice too, that one too. And every -- every Friday I
20 see them. Not just that, I had -- there were movies
21 that time, I'd go to movies, and then there's trips to
22 Hay River, I asked, said sure, as long as you got a
23 place to stay. So I phoned and that [A.], talked with
24 my supervisor, oh, yeah, I'll get him place. I used to
25 go. Maybe they were happy I was gone too.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you know if your
2 sisters ever had an opportunity to do -- because you
3 were talking about the treatment centre and how
4 successful it was for you?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: There was
6 nothing for them that time.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Not for them?

8 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you know if they
10 ever tried?

11 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Never -- didn't
12 seem like they had a problem, you know, but I knew they
13 drank lots. You know, like -- like, boyfriends they
14 take off to work they go on a -- out in the sticks,
15 party right away knew they were having a problem. One
16 day, they just run away.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And your mom, did
18 she -- did your sisters stay in touch with your mom?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Bertha did,
20 yeah. That is actually where Bertha stayed. I only
21 visited Bertha a couple of times.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: My mom came
24 back and maybe next trip we'll try to get her back. But
25 she's the one (inaudible).

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: How do you think we
2 could honour the lives of your sisters, remember them?
3 Is there something that could be done to honour them for
4 their short lives and how residential school stole from
5 them?

6 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.
7 Group home and receiving home stole their lives, you
8 know, took their life, you know, I know that. When they
9 were there, I go visit them, they were happy and just
10 like me, I guess, you know, sometimes I'm happy, but I
11 never smiled at some people told me. I told them I
12 (inaudible) too. How come you never smile, they told
13 me. I laugh at Residential School.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Well, you're --

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Smile at those
16 nuns and that. Yeah, the lonely at night after bedtime,
17 a lot of times, I guess, you know, I couldn't get over
18 that hump there, you know, like grade 10 I stayed two
19 years in grade 10. I don't know what's wrong with your
20 supervisor, talk to him, just rough and everything. I
21 don't know I said, I don't know -- other kids get it,
22 but I can't I just can't learn -- get over that one
23 hump. I tried even here, I went back to school here.
24 Just like I was stuck just. Brings me back to
25 residential school when I start writing stuff down and

1 stuff like that -- yeah, that's, I think all that -- you
2 know, I never got beat up and that too.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: You did or you
4 didn't?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: No, you know, I
6 didn't. But when supervisor talked to me when I was
7 wrong, go together, big guy, big (inaudible) about that
8 big, and then that came out 16, after I was 16, he
9 wouldn't do that. Because I think he knew. And I check
10 into that myself too, like, all these supervisors they
11 were all in residential schools too. That's why they
12 did all -- how they treated us.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: So the supervisors
14 had attended residential school themselves?

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, yeah.
16 All of them just about. Everybody that works there.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: So it perpetuates
18 that violence?

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, you know,
20 that violence.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: It just keeps going?

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Them -- they
23 don't care, oh, yeah, I've been treated this way, oh,
24 you're not -- you know, you're not going to get away.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: So if I had to take

1 it, you can take it?

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, that's
3 the way it was because they got treated rough.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mhmm.

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: And when there
6 was food there, they give you food. I remember my two
7 sisters who were sitting there, and then they don't
8 leave that table until the food is gone. Sometimes they
9 give you too much, it was good food, but when you're not
10 hungry, you're not -- you know, how are you going to
11 take it down. Yeah, all those things there. It's
12 so -- I come in one year later, they're still sitting at
13 the table. And then those are, that's my blood, what
14 are they doing, I can't say that either, they put me in
15 detention home. We had a detention home there too.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: And that's one of the
17 things that the commissioners are looking for in those
18 truths about how it happens from one generation to
19 another, sort of similar to how the supervisors in the
20 homes that had been in residential school, but also how
21 things go from generation to generation, so as a
22 survivor of residential school, the impact that that had
23 as you raised your two girls, and you know, and how it
24 keeps -- seems to seep into the generations.

25 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: And so the commission
2 is looking for thoughts on how do we stop that? How do
3 we stop that continuation of -- that systemic
4 intergenerational impacts?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, hopefully
6 this story I did goes back to my two girls. You know, I
7 want them to hear because --

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: So education?

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Is that what I'm
11 hearing?

12 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, to
13 educate them because you know this, what I'm carrying I
14 think they're carrying it too because my youngest one is
15 really -- you can tell, you know, a lot of times, things
16 are coming out of there all the time, and you know, it's
17 all -- it's like a wave.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

19 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: It carries on
20 and on, you know.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, yes.

22 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I think we've
23 got to stop it today, somehow, you know.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: So with what you've
25 just said, how do you think maybe your residential

1 school has impacted your two daughters because they are
2 both mothers, one soon to be and one that has five
3 children?

4 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Can you see or do you
6 feel or have you had any conversations about what life
7 was like for them and about how that wave you talk
8 about, for you to them?

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I talk
10 about what I went through, you know, like, a lot of
11 times too, I don't realize, I tell you, sometimes you
12 can think, and I threw some things at them, you know,
13 what I went through.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

15 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Look at how you
16 got it today, I says in my day, you know, you don't see
17 this, you know, and you know, buy them good clothes and
18 some, you know, I don't like this, you know. A lot of
19 times, you know, like, back in my day, things are only
20 one kind of thing sometimes.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: So you've shared your
22 experience with your girls?

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, with my
24 daughters, yeah.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I told them,
2 like, you know, I only tell them to pray. You know,
3 when things get hard, pray because it seems to work with
4 me. A lot of times, I can't get out of the house, like,
5 my dad told me, pray three times, he says, things will
6 get better, sure enough, the third time, I pray, and
7 then that gets you going, you know. Move around, start
8 cooking, otherwise, you know, I just sit there, and what
9 can I do? You know, oh, you know, can't say to hell
10 with it either, if you say that, you know, your kids are
11 going to do the same thing. So you know, a lot of
12 times, you know, like, my oldest one is really good
13 because she's the one that understands, she's smart.
14 She's got five kids and she understands exactly what
15 I'm -- where I'm coming from.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: So she provides
17 support to you then?

18 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Oh, yeah,
19 yeah, she --

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: That's good.

21 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: She's always by
22 me, she asks, you know, come -- bring me soup, see how
23 I'm doing, yeah, every day. She brings those -- her
24 kids, the youngest one wants to stay with me all the
25 time, and that's when I'm so happy, you know. You know,

1 I don't think of nothing when they're there, everything
2 is gone out of me.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: Those are good
4 moments?

5 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, they know
6 sometimes I'm sad.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mmhmm.

8 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, that
9 middle one there is ever smart, she just turned seven.
10 She told me the other day, the 23rd, Tuesday, I went in
11 there, she told me. Boy are you ever short, I told her,
12 I'm short, but I'm seven. Yeah, she's ever smart that
13 one. Yeah.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Is there -- as we've
15 been talking, is there anything that you would like that
16 we haven't talked about that you would like to share
17 with the commissioners? And while you're thinking, I'm
18 just going to make sure that the video camera is still
19 recording. Yes. Anything about your experiences,
20 anything you felt was important as a residential school
21 survivor, and really is a '60s scoop because you were
22 taken in the '60s and your younger sisters. You went to
23 a -- you went to go to school, but you ended up in a
24 group home, so not in residential school, about the
25 experience about how it's impacted your life, the

1 challenges that you would like to say to the
2 commissioners about what it was like to be taken as a
3 small child and where you are today?

4 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, I think
5 today they're still doing it, they are taking children
6 away from their home. Instead of doing that, you know,
7 they should get there and help the mothers and the
8 parents. Give them a good home there and get them
9 healing, do something for them, not just take the kids
10 and then those two, when you got no kids, they send you
11 out on the street, you end up on the street, death row.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, right.

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: So I think
14 they got to help the people that are having problems,
15 drinking, whatever, not taking their children. Because
16 when you're taking their children, you're taking
17 everything from them. Their life, I know I got two
18 girls here. You know, that's why I sobered up, just to
19 be with them. Yeah, if you've got children, sober up,
20 look after them, that will make them. Happy -- my dad
21 always told me, happy home is a sober home.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: And how people create
23 that environment, if part of the problem is the
24 residential school and the '60s scope like you're
25 saying, you're just perpetuating the same problem in a

1 different way?

2 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: Or I shouldn't say a
4 problem, the same actions in a different way, and
5 they're occurring today because it's an outcome of what
6 was happening in your community.

7 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Mhmm.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Any last thoughts?
9 And do you speak Dene?

10 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, only with
11 the elders.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Well, I just wanted
13 to offer, if you would like to take a moment to speak in
14 your own language here, any closing thoughts that you
15 would like to share in your own language?

16 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: You see there,
17 it comes to residential school, you know. It's hard to
18 do a sentence, but I understand really good, what, you
19 know I got to be talking to a person, another person.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Another person who
21 speaks Dene? [R.T], do you speak Dene?

22 MS. [R.T.]: I do, South Slavey,
23 though.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

25 MS. [R.T.]: And he's Chipewyan?

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. I was going to
2 invite, I thought it -- just be an opportunity and we
3 have seen that in some of the videos where people would
4 just like to have that space to speak their own
5 language, and even if you were -- even just a few words,
6 it doesn't have to be much, but if you're good with how
7 things have gone today, your space and your time, I'm
8 not looking to shut it down I'm just looking to you as
9 to whether or not you're feeling you're fully heard
10 because that's important is that when you walk out this
11 door, you feel I have been heard, I have had every
12 opportunity, if there is anything else, we can --

13 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, if you
14 got -- if you got children, you know, on account of
15 residential school, if your children don't listen, don't
16 ever give up, no matter how hold they are because you're
17 blood. And you know, bring them a home -- bring them
18 home or whatever they'll take, but don't give up on
19 them. Because I see lots of them giving up on their
20 kids, don't care, that's one thing I would never want to
21 see is my kids on the street. I think I've just about
22 said everything.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

24 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I will think
25 about it probably later, but anyways there is going to

1 be follow up or nothing.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Well, there will be
3 aftercare, so [R.T.] will speak to you about aftercare,
4 we want to make sure that whatever you need as you leave
5 here that we have touched base with you on that, and
6 make sure that whatever you need in the aftercare
7 appears for you.

8 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Okay.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: So are you
10 comfortable with me turning everything off or --

11 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: I can't think
12 of anything. You know how it is sometimes.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, right.

14 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, when
15 you're in front of a camera.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: You've done
17 exceptionally well, you know, as I said earlier, it does
18 take an awful amount of courage especially to come in to
19 a room with somebody you don't know.

20 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Yeah, you --

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: And to share that
22 pain, that really is something.

23 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: You did a good
24 job, and [R.T.] beside me.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: That's important.

1 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: [R.T.] has been
2 my support a few years ago.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, good.

4 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: (Inaudible)
5 talk to somebody, I told her to come see, her little
6 problems, you know.

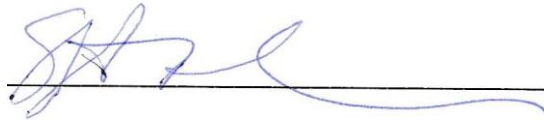
7 MS. KERRIE REAY: It's important,
8 though, to have somebody to trust and to talk with.

9 MR. LAWRENCE BEAULIEU: Oh, yeah,
10 yeah.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. It's 4:01, so we
12 will conclude.

13 --- Whereupon the statement concluded at 4:01 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.



Stephanie Menard, CSR(A)