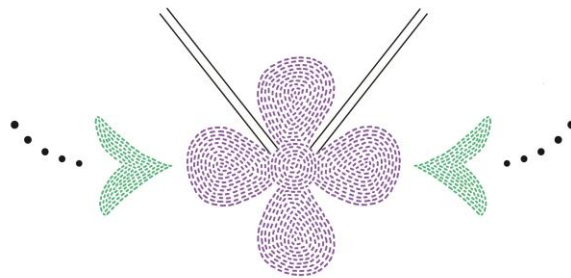


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Happy Valley-Goose Bay,
Newfoundland-and-Labrador**



PUBLIC

Thursday March 8, 2018

**Statement - Volume 271
Sarah Ponniuk, In relation to Mark Obed,
Hannah Obed, Hannah Obed's Son & Priscilla Millick**

Statement gathered by Alana Lee

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1 Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador
2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 11:53
3 a.m.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Perfect. Okay. So it is
5 March 8th, 2018. This is Alana Lee, statement gatherer
6 with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
7 Indigenous Women and Girls. I'm here with Elder Sarah
8 Ponniuk.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Ponniuk.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Ponniuk. There we go.
11 Thank you, Sarah. Sarah is originally from the Nutak area,
12 but you mentioned you're a locatee?

13 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** M'hm.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay. And so you currently
15 reside in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Sarah, you're going to
16 speak about Mark and Hannah?

17 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** M'hm.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay. And you're here on a
19 voluntary basis?

20 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** (No audible response).

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay. Perfect. What would
22 you like -- oh, sorry. It is currently 11:53 a.m., and
23 we're going to begin the interview. What would you like
24 to -- what would you like to tell the Inquiry?

25 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Well, I guess for a long

1 period of time, and I did some healing on it for a while, a
2 long while ago, but sometimes when I hear stories of
3 missing and murdered young women, or if I hear or listen to
4 the news, and I start remembering how it was like for me --

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- and I understand how
7 it must be for other people. I -- I have the year blocked.
8 I can't remember the year, but I remember that I had a
9 phone call. I believe it was in the morning during winter.
10 I think it was either in January or -- or in February.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I had the call, and a
13 person told me that, we have a bad news for you, Sarah. My
14 cousin Hannah was shot by their son. So at that time, I
15 seemed to be in a shocked stages. I couldn't really
16 believe of what I heard, for one thing, and -- and I was
17 wondering, what really happened? What I was told was that
18 their son -- well, his name -- I didn't really know his
19 name, but everybody called him [Hannah's Son], that was his
20 nickname -- been shot his mother and his father, and my
21 brother died on the way to Halifax, and after he shot his
22 parents, he completed suicide. So that was very, very
23 difficult for me.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

25 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I remember that time

1 that -- I don't even remember if we had mental health and
2 addictions at the time. The only support that I had at the
3 time was my husband, but one of the things that sometimes I
4 wonder, and when I hear so much about children being taken
5 away or the foster care or they have to leave -- move away
6 from Labrador and go somewhere else, it makes me kind of,
7 also, think back about my nephew --

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- because when he was
10 away in group home and he went back, he -- it must have
11 been hard for him to have communication with his parents
12 where their parents might have speak little bit of English
13 but not much, but he couldn't really communicate because my
14 brother only spoke in Inuktitut, and he had to go back home
15 to a different surrounding he's so used to over the years.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And so it must have been
18 very difficult, and he must have had so much anger to go
19 back home, and all he hear is they talk in Inuktitut.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And, possibly, he lost
22 the culture, as well.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

24 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But I do know there was
25 investigation done. I remember calling RCMP down -- down

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Sarah Ponniuk
(Obeds & Millick)

4

1 Hopedale. I think it was few years after or more. I
2 wanted to have a bit of knowledge, to understand better
3 what really went on, and they wouldn't give it to me.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm. So Hopedale in Child
5 and Family Services? Or --

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** No. I went direct
7 to -- I really called Hopedale RCMP station.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And after that -- but
10 anyway, after all that, I remember my husband made enough
11 money to send me down to the funeral in -- in Hopedale.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

13 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And three of them was
14 buried in the same -- same plot, same hole, actually. I
15 found it very difficult, and there was no answers. It -- I
16 never really put a closure.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** So it mainly was the
19 hardest for -- for their children, my niece and nephews,
20 because at that time, the -- the children were also in
21 foster care --

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

23 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- or in group home. I
24 remember that I had to go to group home on -- on
25 10th Street. Someone came, they needed me to go to my

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(Obeds & Millick)

5

1 nephew and my niece, but I only see my nephew, [T.O.],
2 and -- so I had to tell him -- I only told him what I knew.
3 I didn't know the whole facts, and it was very, very
4 difficult. Can I stop a bit?

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah. Do you want a breath?
6 Do you want me to turn the camera off?

7 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** M'hm. Yeah.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** We're just -- it's 10:59,
9 and we're just going to pause.
10 --- Upon recessing at 10:59 a.m.
11 --- Upon resuming

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** We're going to continue the
13 statement. Just when we -- when we break, I'm just going
14 to kind of recap a bit of what we talked about.

15 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Okay.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** You were talking about your
17 experiences with your family, and then your -- your
18 strength and your resilience and what -- you know, how you
19 coped, I guess, with that traumatic experience and started
20 helping your community. You talked about being a mental
21 health worker, mental health and addictions, also within
22 Corrections. Do you want to tell a little bit more about
23 that?

24 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** After trauma happened in
25 my family with my cousin, Hannah, with my nephew, [Hannah's

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(Obeds & Millick)

6

1 Son] -- that's how I knew him, had been [Hannah's
2 Son] -- after a while, I -- I decided since I couldn't help
3 my own family that I have to help others.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because at the time, I
6 felt that I didn't have no support or help with myself.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: (Indiscernible).

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: It was a long journey.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: It wasn't easy before I
11 decided my journey, and after burying them in Hopedale in
12 the wintertime, to see three coffins go in -- in the hole,
13 all three of them, together, and at that time, when we had
14 funeral, I kind of numbed my feelings, and I went back
15 home, and I started to drink, but after a while, I decided
16 to get help from -- from what happened to my family. I
17 started working as a janitor first, and I worked myself up.
18 If there was a job opening, I applied, but on the end, I
19 ended up with -- at the time, it was called LIDC, and I
20 applied for a job at treatment centre called Sapichiwik
21 (ph), and I ended up working as attendant.

22 Although I was an attendant in the evenings,
23 people came and talked to me. I just listened. I didn't
24 push them away, and after that, I applied for addiction
25 counsellor, and I got a job and started doing programs and

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(Obeds & Millick)

7

1 doing one-on-ones, and after that, I started doing -- after
2 a while, I started doing after-care work, and after-care
3 work, I had to do five communities, and I tell you, right
4 now, they don't have an after-care workers in place, but
5 they do have mental health workers in place, but I really
6 feel they need after-care workers in place because mental
7 health and addiction can't do everything.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yes.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

11 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** That was my experience.

12 Then after that, I applied for a job, down Nain, as a
13 mental health and addictions senior counsellor, and I got a
14 job. It was very difficult at the time, I found, that
15 moving from Goose Bay, try to rent our house and -- and
16 go -- and going back home to Nain, and there was
17 no -- although at the time, our organization had houses or
18 apartments, and I couldn't get one. So -- but the people
19 that came in from outside, they had an apartment right
20 away, but as for me, I couldn't get any, so I ended up
21 buying a house from someone else in Nain.

22 So it was hard, and I was doing what I loved
23 doing, is helping my people. So as a mental health
24 addictions senior counsellor, I also volunteered with the
25 mental health and the staff and crisis response team, so I

1 help in that too.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: There -- I remember it
4 happened in 2000.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: A lot -- I went down for
7 the support, and I think it was 2001, I was still
8 continuing, and on the end, I -- that's where I went, and
9 me and team leader at the time, I think she's still team
10 leader, we did everything along with the other volunteers.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But the first priority
13 was the family.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So because of what
16 happened to my family, I was -- my aim was to help others
17 because I couldn't help my own, and after returning to
18 Happy Valley-Goose Bay because of my husband's health, I
19 end up having a job at LCC Labrador Corrections Centre as
20 Inuit person liaison with officer. Anyway, although it was
21 different title, I was still doing mental health and
22 addiction work.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And although I used to
25 be told that I am -- I'm only there -- or I used to be

1 told, you are only here with Inuit.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But my father did not
4 taught me that, so I didn't listen, and I -- and I seen
5 people that needed my help. Could have been Inuit, Innu,
6 or whoever came through those doors that needed to see me.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And right now, I -- I'm
11 retired.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: How are you enjoying your
13 retirement?

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Oh, I'm not enjoying it
15 one bit.

16 (LAUGHTER)

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I've got to use humor,
18 so don't mind me.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. No, that's great.
20 You don't seem like somebody who'd like to sit still for
21 very long.

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: You mentioned earlier, this
24 is part of some recommendations, that you think that -- you
25 don't think that there's any after-care being offered. Can

1 you tell me more about what -- what do you mean by
2 after-care?

3 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** After-care, I find -- we
4 always have mental health workers, right?

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Okay. In place.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

8 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** They do everything.
9 They also have to do programming in their communities, each
10 person doing something --

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- a person to go see
13 them, but I feel strongly, it doesn't need to be just in
14 Labrador, but after-care needs to be put in place.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Someone that will do the
17 work and go see the -- the family members.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** It's very, very
20 important.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

22 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because sometimes
23 families, especially if they're seniors, and they might
24 speak a little bit of English --

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- a work -- a worker
2 might come in, but the Elders, the seniors are left out.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because the workers only
5 speak in English.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I got nothing against
8 them.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But -- although
11 they -- they does excellent counseling --

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

13 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- and stuff like that,
14 but our seniors are left out, their needs --

15 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- in -- in our mother
17 tongue.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. That's how I
20 feel.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: Absolutely. Yeah.
22 Absolutely. So everybody should be able to have -- well,
23 and that's just -- that's access to counseling.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: M'hm.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: And that would

1 just -- that's an accessibility issue, right?

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: They should be able to
4 receive counseling in your own language.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: So would you would say more
7 culturally -- culturally based support services --

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: M'hm.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: -- for after-care and
10 counseling and language?

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay. So that's a
13 recommendation.

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And another thing
15 that -- that I feel -- that's me. That's my feelings.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: When I talk, I'm not
18 putting anyone down.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, no.

20 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But I'm going to
21 say -- I'm going to say how I feel.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Yes.

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Another thing is in the
24 offices.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: M-hm.

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I believe for the
2 seniors, especially on the north coast --

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- they also should hire
5 a person that speaks or understand in Inuktitut, so maybe
6 the seniors may be more -- although them have seniors
7 programming. That's a different story.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh? But we need Inuit
10 that speak both language --

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- or understand.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

14 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because nowadays, the
15 society have changed so much. They might have a
16 coordinator that's -- that is the boss over mental health.
17 I -- I don't have -- I don't have anything against people
18 from outside getting a job, but they're doing a job that's
19 sometimes not really -- it's not based on the community
20 needs.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** It's important. Each
25 community is different.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Okay?

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And the program they
5 run, it should rely what the community needs, what the big
6 boss wants, not -- not what they want.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But how the community
9 should be run.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Oh, I'm saying a little
12 bit too much, I think.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: No. Those are very valid
14 points, and services do need to be community --

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: -- and culturally based.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: And if they're to do -- if
19 they're to support and, you know, help with real healing,
20 it can't be somebody just telling the community what they
21 need. The community can tell what they need, and they have
22 to be culturally and community-based because, like you
23 said, each community is different.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: So thank you for sharing

1 that, and no, you're not saying too much. Those are very
2 great, strong points. Thank you, Sarah.

3 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because now I'm not
4 working.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I am no longer going to
7 be scared.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. I -- I kept my
10 mouth shut too long.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But I really enjoy
13 helping people --

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- that experience
16 trauma.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Although I worked in
19 many issues in my own treatment and had -- and had many
20 help from different -- they didn't have to be Inuit. I had
21 help from a person that I really respect. He's the Mi'qmaq
22 that helped me, and I did a lot of healing; although it's
23 not part of my culture, I had a lot of healing in the
24 sweat.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

1 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So that's me.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And I listen to my -- my
4 father's words all time, eh, to help anyone, not just my
5 people.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But sometimes, I can't
8 help my own family.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Somebody -- that's
11 somebody else's job.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

13 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Unless they request my
14 help.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.
17 Sometimes -- sometimes when I pray or when I talk, I don't
18 plan nothing, how I'm going to say it. Like, in the
19 morning I might pray. I ask for guidance. Sometimes, I
20 don't know what I'm going to say.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I just says whatever
23 comes in my heart, so that's where I am. Yeah.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. M'hm.

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And -- but I'm willing

1 to help anyone that is -- needs my assistance or help --

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- because I don't think
4 I'm -- I just going to do what I can.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh?

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. What else? We
9 have to learn how to cope because -- I'll -- because -- one
10 of the things I always remember is my parents.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: People always talk about
13 residential school, but I always remember my mother's
14 stories before she died, is that she -- my father and my
15 mother, they survived the Spanish flu, and they also
16 survived -- my mother also survived is Ikis Moravian (ph).
17 At the time, they took children. I don't know if they
18 called it residential school, but Moravian took them in
19 because they had no parents.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And so I never, ever
22 forgot her stories. I still have them.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And so residential
25 school just didn't happen when it happened. It happened

1 long before, and people, I -- and even I wondered, how far
2 did that go? People nowadays only talk about residential
3 school, their year, but it happened long before that.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh?

6 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because in Spanish flu,
8 the families, their parents died.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh?

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And so it goes further
13 than the stories that we've been hearing.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So -- and I -- I have
16 responsibility to break the chain by breaking it, I have to
17 talk about it, of what my mother told me.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And maybe this isn't the
20 time, but --

21 MS. ALANA LEE: Yes, it is.

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- that's me.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Yes.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: You can --

1 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: You can share whatever you
3 would like to share.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: And maybe -- when we were
6 talking earlier, you mentioned the community that you were
7 from, the area that you were from, but then you were
8 relocated, or a locatee is the word you used?

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I was about 5.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: What I remember is I
12 go -- to a younger age, what I remember, but I remember the
13 day we got relocated. I remember my parents. We
14 were -- we left from our -- my father had cabins in
15 different seasons.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So one of the places he
18 left, and we went very early, and the -- and the -- back
19 then, we call the boat tuqitut (ph) in my language,
20 tuqitut, the boat.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So I remember my family
23 and some of my family members -- I was a kid. I was in the
24 front looking at them because I didn't really understand
25 what was going on at the time, and to this day when I talk

1 about it, I could really see the expression on their face.
2 The only one that didn't have expression, that was very
3 quiet, is the person that was guiding, or whatever, the
4 boat. At the time, they didn't have this, but they had
5 steering, eh?

6 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh, okay. Yeah.

7 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** That's what we call
8 tuqitut, and I still remember to this very day the faces of
9 my family.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

11 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Some of them never spoke
12 a word, but they looked back to our homeland and looked at
13 it until we got out of sight, and I didn't realize at the
14 time, as a child, that what I seen, it was like a movie, a
15 video in here and in here that I never, ever forgot to this
16 day, and going to the communities, well, some people move
17 to Nain, some moved to Hopedale, Makkovik, North West
18 River; and, you know, at the time, family used to be very
19 close-knit family one time before then. So some families
20 went to Nain, but some of the relatives may went to, say,
21 Makkovik. Later on over the years, it seemed the family
22 members got kind of distant.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

24 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But now -- now it seemed
25 that they only seemed to know who their relatives is that's

1 in the community, might have a little bit knowledge of who
2 they might be related to.

3 The reason why I mention this is because I
4 work with guys, and one -- one time, one of the guys
5 wanted -- if I know their family, and I said, I only knew
6 who they were, but I didn't know them personally, and the
7 guys started asking me, what was it like for you guys even
8 as children when you's got relocated? How was it, and how
9 was it afterwards, and how is it now; I didn't know I was
10 related to this and that; I was never told because my
11 parents only drink. And after they left, they said -- some
12 of them said, I thought violence was normal compared to
13 somebody else's house that never, ever drink.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm. Yeah.

15 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** So I think after
16 relocation, after few years, this violence and sexual
17 abuse, the whole works that too play an addiction --

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm. As a result of
19 relocation.

20 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- came in place even
21 more so than before, than in the past.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I really believe that.
24 I remember as a child before we were relocated, I remember
25 we were (indiscernible) -- we were away, like, in the

1 spring, hey?

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Before breakup, and I
4 had a sister named Priscilla. She was about a year
5 old -- maybe a year older, but I don't think she was a
6 year -- I think she was a year younger than me.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: One of my brothers had
9 him on his back, holding on, and he was jumping or running,
10 and it was -- the rocks were kind of slippery, and it
11 happened to when they jumped, he fall back, and my sister's
12 back was broke, so (indiscernible), they had to take
13 her -- I believe it was to Nutak area, and -- to Nutak,
14 that's the place, Nutak, where the community, it was where
15 the store was, and...

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, okay.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But anyway, while she
18 was gone, she died out St. Anthony, and the hard part is
19 that me or my family never put a closure. Her remains
20 wasn't ever brought back, so she must be buried in
21 St. Anthony somewhere because that's where she died.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm. Was she in the
23 hospital?

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Her remains never
25 returned.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: What year was that?

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: That must have been
3 early 1950s.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: 1950s?

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. Sometimes, the
6 years, I got a -- quite a few years blocked, but I think
7 that was it -- that was long before we relocated.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But -- so my parents
10 never, ever had closure. I never, either. One time, I
11 went to St. Anthony, for the hospital, for myself, and
12 that's all I thought about. I'd like to know where she's
13 buried.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So I put the closure,
16 and I really didn't know who to ask because I was thinking
17 maybe the doctors didn't -- they maybe all didn't knew
18 (indiscernible) wouldn't even know, but my sister's body
19 was never returned to us, and to this day, I don't have
20 closure.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So -- and her name was
23 Priscilla.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: Priscilla?

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Same last name as you?

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Pardon?

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Same last name or different
4 last name?

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: My surname before I got
6 married was Millick.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: What was it?

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Millick, M-I-L-L-I-C-K.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: Millick? Okay.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. So -- and I
11 guess -- and I -- I guess one of the things is that -- one
12 of the things that I always thought about was, you know,
13 as -- I had an addiction problem, my family do, not all,
14 but there's a story behind their addiction, eh? But -- so
15 all the hurt I had, the most support that I had and I still
16 have, I have support of my family, I have support of my
17 friends, and sometimes my coworkers, but at the time when I
18 really needed the support, sometimes even to now, my faith
19 is stronger than anything else.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. But I -- I love
22 to -- I love to do presentations.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Those kind of stuff, I
25 like.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I like doing
3 one-on-ones.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I miss counseling.
6 I -- sometimes, I tell people -- I'll tell you how I does
7 it, and I want to be honest with you. You could see me.
8 It's your choice if you want to continue to see me.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: When I think it's right,
11 I will challenge you. I will confront you.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

13 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But I work with you long
14 as you want me to, but it's going be your choice, and I
15 always say, I am not going to change you. I am going to
16 give you the tools. That's all I can do.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: The rest is your
19 responsibility. That's how I worked.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. And I said, if
22 nobody don't like me, that's okay. I'm not going to lose
23 no sleep over it.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

25 (LAUGHTER)

1 MS. ALANA LEE: That's right.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So -- I don't think I
5 will ever stop trying to help someone.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I guess the hardest part
8 is -- I could support my family, but the hardest part is I
9 can't really help them.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But I'm there for them.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. It's a different kind
13 of relationship, isn't it?

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. Because
15 when -- when you've been working, you go home. You got to
16 take off your hat --

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- that you use when
19 you're at work.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: You go home, you just
22 been a mom, a person that bawls and screams and -- you
23 know?

24 (LAUGHTER)

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: It's like having two

1 different personalities. Hey?

2 (LAUGHTER)

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: You know what I mean?

5 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. Absolutely.

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So in this kind of work
7 that I done, I -- I try to use -- I have used kind of
8 different humor because the -- I also did a lot of grief
9 work with individuals, and that was heavy for them.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh? So I have to use
12 humor.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Even in a large group.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. Yeah.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: It takes the tension
17 away.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah, it's necessary.

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: You want to ask me more
22 questions?

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Do you have anything else
24 you would like to share?

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I -- I just -- I shared

1 about my brother and -- and his wife, my nephew,
2 (indiscernible). The Obeds are my relatives.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And what they share was
5 a kind of -- although (indiscernible) was mine before,
6 little thing start to open.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I couldn't keep it in.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh? And just it's all
11 part of healing.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. Yeah.

13 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And I appreciate
14 everyone, different cultures.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And other than that, I'm
17 okay.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: The reason why I
20 didn't -- didn't want anyone here with me, when I lived
21 in -- in Nain as the mental health senior counsellor, we
22 was going through so much at the time, like, crisis
23 suicides happening, and one time we had -- we were able to
24 get counseling from -- I think it was in Toronto.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I forgot what it was
2 called now, but if we needed counseling, we let them know,
3 eh? So I had a colleague --

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- for me, and she was a
6 counsellor. We never met. We just talked over the phone,
7 and the first thing she asked me was, can you tell me your
8 title, please? So I told her, and I -- and I -- I was
9 there to express how I felt and what was bothering me,
10 affecting me, and she said to me, oh, you should know all
11 that already; you're a senior counsellor. But I wasn't
12 there because of my title. I wanted to talk about what was
13 affecting me. She didn't help me.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

15 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** So I never tried, so I
16 never really...

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh.

18 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. Yeah.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** It's --

20 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I like support, I
21 understand that, but my faith is stronger.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

23 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And if I need help, I
24 will ask for it.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: Well, what she should have
3 known is what makes a really good counsellor is when they
4 seek out --

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 MS. ALANA LEE: -- and they know themselves,
7 and they need counseling, too, right?

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: Right? That's what
10 makes -- so -- yeah.

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

13 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. It's one of those
14 things, eh?

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. But anyway, that
17 was back then.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I just thought I'd share
20 that.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. So you said your
22 faith, that's what helps you.

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: (No audible response).

24 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. You don't have to

1 go the church to have faith.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Faith is -- is my
4 choice, eh?

5 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. Yeah.

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. Yeah. So
7 not -- like so many others, but I could only talk about me.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I survived so many
10 things, you know?

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. Yeah.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: One time working down
13 Nain, one time, they had (indiscernible) say -- because
14 I -- I had to go leave Nain. I wanted to get out of there
15 to get help for me, so we went somewhere in New Brunswick
16 to get help, eh?

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And at that time, they
19 thought -- I knew I didn't have to tell them. At that
20 time, they thought my work was affecting me, but to be
21 honest, all those crisis was going on. It wasn't my work
22 that was affecting me. It was home.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because of my husband's
25 health.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh?

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And not my work. I
5 really love crisis -- not -- I don't want crisis, but that
6 was my cup of tea.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Mental health and
9 addiction and crisis response was, like, front-line work.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But more than one person
12 asked me in the past, are you stressed out from your work?
13 And I said, no, it got nothing to do with my work.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I love my work. I
16 didn't -- sometimes I didn't tell people (indiscernible),
17 two separate things.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm. Yeah.

19 (LAUGHTER)

20 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because at the time, my
21 husband had -- he had chronic pain, 24/7.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh. Yeah.

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I go home from work, and
24 I try to do my best to take care of him, too, so it was
25 home.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So that's my experience.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. And you had mentioned
4 earlier that your husband was one of your big supports?

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: He was.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: He support me to go in
10 Nain. He made me my choice.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: When I told him, I got a
13 job, and I spoke -- first, I spoke to him and told him,
14 there's a job in Nain opening, I'd like to apply.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I said, what do you
17 think? And he said -- he said, whatever you decide.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: He said, it doesn't mean
20 you're going to get hired. He was, like, preparing me at
21 the same time.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I said -- anyway, I
24 said, I'm going to apply, and I -- and I did, and he told
25 me he's going to support me.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. And from there,
3 went Nain.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. Wow.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And the day we was
6 leaving Nain to go back to Goose Bay, valley, I cried my
7 heart out.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: Ah.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: From -- we got picked up
10 from -- from our house --

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- and down to the
13 airport. I cry all the way down.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And we got to Goose Bay,
16 my -- at the time, my husband said, I never heard you cry
17 so much all your life from our house to the airport.

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because it -- it
20 reminded me how -- the feeling that I got when we were
21 relocated.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Hey?

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And all those memories

1 come back, and leaving Nain --

2 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

3 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- and the people that I
4 serve, my home people.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Especially the seniors
7 that I was very close to, and sometimes, some of the
8 seniors that wanted to see me, they spoke in Inuktitut.
9 They didn't want anyone else. That was -- young ones.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

11 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because the young ones
12 don't understand.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

14 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But they are supportive,
15 but they need someone that speak Inuktitut and understand.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

17 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** So -- and when I was
18 leaving Nain, I cried my heart out.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Ah.

20 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. I thought better
21 afterwards.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But other than that, you
24 know --

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** How long have you been away

1 from Nain now?

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Well, it must have
3 been -- this year, I believe since I came back, I think in
4 August is going to be nine years since I came back here.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: My husband died about
7 five years ago.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: Ah.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So that's the reason
10 why. He's buried here.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, okay.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because he's buried
13 here, I don't plan to leave.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, yeah. Oh, Sarah.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. And he was my
18 biggest support, although we had our own issues like
19 everybody else.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: No one is perfect, but
22 that's me.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And one other things,
25 too, is that -- that I feel very strongly that our people

1 as -- some of my people don't have a voice.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I also learn to be voice
4 for them.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh? Because some of
7 them don't have a voice. We have to be their voice.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And -- you want to ask
10 me more questions?

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Is there anything else you
12 would like to share? We talked about -- we came in, and
13 you wanted to talk about Hannah and Mark. How -- how did
14 you say his name? Markus (ph)?

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Markus.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Markus. Okay. You shared a
17 lot about -- you know, a bit about your history, where
18 you're from, and your resilience, your strength, how you
19 coped with that and how you've been helping and it sounds
20 like still are continuing to help, like, families and
21 communities, and -- you know, people in general. Is there
22 anything else you would like to share?

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Well --

24 MS. ALANA LEE: Anything that you feel like
25 you left out?

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I guess one of the
2 things I left out is after relocation and -- first time I
3 ever went to school was (indiscernible).

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

5 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And that was the
6 scariest place to go to. That's the first time I ever
7 heard someone talk in English.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh, okay.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because I didn't
10 understand.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** And it was --

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I didn't even know how
13 to say "hi."

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh, okay.

15 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** So that was scary for
16 me.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay. So this school, was
18 it a -- did you have to stay at this school? Like, was it,
19 like, a boarding school, or were you able to go home in the
20 evening?

21 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Actually, when we moved
22 to North West, my father decide to build a little house on
23 Sheeshayshet (ph).

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

25 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** My father was very

1 restless, especially in the fall, spring, summer, because
2 he was so used to four seasons.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah. That's right.

4 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh? And I remember
5 going to school -- like so many others, I went to school in
6 North West River, Goose Bay, Rigolet, Makkovik, and
7 Hopedale, and, you know, after a while, there was a lot of
8 individuals -- not a whole lot of people, but to me,
9 anyway, there was a lot of -- some -- were some bullies,
10 you know?

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Putting us down, being
13 an Inuk, calling Eskimos, or -- putting us really down, eh?

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay. And so were
15 these -- were these -- were the bullies Inuit or Inuk, as
16 well, or no?

17 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** At the -- way back then.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Way back then, they were
20 called Native settlers.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

22 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But now, as Inuit for
23 our government, we got them with us, so we calls them Innu
24 now.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But I feel there needs
2 to be some forgiveness done --

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

4 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- to move on because for
5 all the people, they (indiscernible).

6 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

7 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But I don't think
8 forgiveness was ever done.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

10 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But we are Inuit now.
11 Yes, I'm very proud of that, but at the same time, it was
12 very hard.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

14 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. Who ran the schools?

16 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Pardon?

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Who ran the schools? Like,
18 was it -- was it the -- was it -- were they government-run
19 schools?

20 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. I remember going
21 to school. My parents were told if they take me to -- to
22 (indiscernible), if they go to their camp place or put up a
23 tent or whatever -- like, say it's spring and the school's
24 still on --

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- they will take the
2 little (indiscernible) -- the family allowance. That was
3 only \$6 at the time.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh.

5 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** That's how -- that was a
6 threat.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay. So did you have to
8 stay in the schools, like, year-round?

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I -- sometimes -- my
10 mother was a survivor of Moravian after her parents died.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** It was like residential
13 schools.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

15 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** She was also survivor of
16 sexually abused.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And because the way
19 she -- she grow up, as a child, she never, ever wanted to
20 see me at the door.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** At first, I didn't
23 understand. Only later, I understand that she was a
24 survivor, and she didn't want me to go through what she
25 went through.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: She was protecting you.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because of what she went
3 through.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So -- but I still
6 attended residential school.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And I -- I
9 don't -- sometimes I talk about it, but I don't really -- I
10 really don't sometimes.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: It depends on how
13 comfortable I am.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because I -- I really
16 don't want to be judged by my own people.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. But -- but my
19 mother, no, she never, ever wanted to see me
20 (indiscernible), is because of how she grow up as a child.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: She was an orphan when
23 the Spanish flu hit, and how -- she was in Makkovik in
24 Moravian. I think they had, like, a boarding school or
25 something.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And the way she was
3 treated, she just -- I don't think she ever did her own
4 healing.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So she never, ever let
7 me --

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I understand now.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

11 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: At first I couldn't. So
12 every time they going to go away in the fall or in the
13 spring, they make sure I stayed with someone where I would
14 be safe.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. At first, I
17 didn't understand.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: What was your experience at
19 school like?

20 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Rigolet was the best
21 place to go to school. Some places I went to -- like, in
22 Makkovik, there was this old teacher. Aunty Kate (ph),
23 that is her name was, but everybody called her Aunty Kate
24 although she wasn't our aunt. I -- she was really
25 just -- but she was nice to some people, but she...

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Take a deep breath, Sarah.

2 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** She -- she used to call
3 me to her office one time. I might be late for school. I
4 remember I had to go in her office. I had to put my hand
5 out. She either had a big ruler or a big long willow. She
6 says, either you go up and you had to be like that. You
7 had to -- just the feeling of the straps, you know, hitting
8 your hands.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

10 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And I guess one of the
11 things is that -- become a teenager or young adult, I used
12 to wonder why if she had to be a Christian and why she was
13 sometimes so cruel. Then later on, I got older and became
14 a counsellor myself and moved to Nain. I remember some
15 Mi'gmau women that (indiscernible) to go to school but they
16 worked there as a teacher. They were there -- they were
17 her victims. Then I understood more.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But I will never say
20 their names.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But they were survivors.
23 I used to hear so much awful stories and understood.
24 Later, I understood why they drink so much.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah. Yeah.

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** M'hm. I remember -- I
2 remember so well that sometimes privately, she may -- we
3 not allowed to speak Inuktitut in the class, in the
4 hallway, or in recess, so grown-ups sometimes -- I used to
5 get confused going home, and my parents only speak
6 Inuktitut. Later on, I start losing my language a little
7 bit. I -- I could speak it, but I'll never forget the
8 willows.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm. It must have been
10 difficult in that counseling position, hearing
11 about -- stories about abuse when you were abused by
12 that -- by that same woman.

13 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But I -- but I
14 learned -- but I learned -- like, this morning, before I
15 went up there, I prayed for God to give me a boundary, eh?
16 Always a boundary, because if I pray, where I'm praying,
17 that's the holy ground. Even in sweat, when they pray --

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- our ancestors are
20 there.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

22 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But, you know -- I
23 counselled one children, adolescent, young adult, adults,
24 and seniors, but a lot of those I'll take to my grave
25 because I promised them.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But they're not mine. I
3 pray and give it to God because I can't handle. If I try
4 to handle their issues, holy. I be crazy.

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 MS. ALANA LEE: That's right. Yeah.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But the -- you
8 know -- so when -- later on when I start hearing people
9 talking to me that were way older than me, and I didn't
10 tell them no different. I didn't tell them what happened
11 to me. Nothing when hearing their stories. You know, I
12 used to say to myself, I wasn't alone, but they had it
13 worse than me.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm. M'hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And I also counsel
16 people that were also survivors, way back then, survivors
17 of abuse from very own minister, and nobody -- it's, like,
18 my people never talked about it because my people respected
19 the ministers, the doctors, the RCMP, because they had all
20 the knowledge, you know? Holy.

21 But my people, we had our own elders. I
22 remember in Hopedale, my dad was one of the
23 amilukakti (ph), one of the leaders. There were -- there
24 were my dad, but there amilukat (ph), their leader, was
25 somebody-Frieda (ph), and there was my dad, and there was

1 that -- what they were called.

2 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

3 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** So my dad used to kick
4 the women out until they finished.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because it was almost
7 like -- now, it could be like court.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah, like a justice circle,
9 but --

10 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. But they were
11 amilukatiki (ph), amilikaks (ph), eh?

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

13 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And they had one leader.
14 He was the leader, but the rest -- but now they
15 calls -- amilikak now was Nunatsiavut, they're not doing
16 what -- the way the old people used to do. It's different
17 now.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** To be a amilikak,
20 (indiscernible), you have to walk the talk, but later, that
21 was also broken, and a lot of my people lost respect of
22 older people because they were starting to drink so much
23 because there wasn't -- ever got help, eh?

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm. M'hm.

25 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But now, I think now we

1 have to learn to earn the respect back, and we have to try
2 to walk very closely with younger generation.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh? Because they are
5 going to be our leaders.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And I want to make sure
8 they know our culture.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: Thank you, Sarah.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: You're welcome.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Those are wise words.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Thank you.

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Those are the kind of
15 things I see.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. Yeah.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: My father -- my father,
18 he was very humble, eh?

19 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

20 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I also have to learn to
21 humble myself. Sometimes before I speak, I have to listen,
22 and sometimes I have to bite my tongue. Hm?

23 (LAUGHTER)

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So not -- so many of my
25 people, my family also went through a lot of stuff.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah. How many siblings did
2 you have growing up?

3 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Huh?

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** How many brothers and
5 sisters did you have growing up?

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Well, when it comes to
7 my family -- wow. When I was growing up and before I grow
8 up, my family had a -- because way back before I was born,
9 they had their own bylaws.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

11 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh? Not like now.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. Tell me about that.

13 **(LAUGHTER)**

14 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Tell me about these bylaws.

16 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But anyway, I could only
17 talk about my family --

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- before everything
20 came in place. I had -- I think -- I had two sisters,
21 two -- after the Spanish flu, my father and my mother, they
22 took in -- I think there was three that they took in. When
23 they was looking after them, the children at the time had
24 no pressure to call them "mother" and "father."

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So they had those
3 arrangements, but back then, they never had no jealousy.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh. Hm.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: You know, compared to
6 nowadays.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: I can't imagine if that
8 happened nowadays.

9 (LAUGHTER)

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Of course, I couldn't
11 understand.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

13 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But they also listened
14 to their Elders --

15 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- when they were
17 younger, I guess, but in a white man's world, they would
18 say I was born in sin, but in my culture, that wasn't born
19 in sin. We had our own bylaws.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Makes a lot of sense.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yes.

22 (LAUGHTER)

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Right? Win/win.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

25 (LAUGHTER)

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But -- I'm not ashamed
2 of that.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Mm-mm.

4 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But anyway, my
5 biological mother, she -- when she married Ottoba (ph),
6 Ottoba was also married twice before her --

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- and he had children.
9 So -- but anyway, my biological mere, I have brother,
10 Hinook Obed (ph).

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And Nicky (ph),
13 and -- but the other brothers that I call was Markus,
14 Paulus (ph), Boris (ph). They had another brother, I was
15 told, in -- I can't remember his name, but anyway, they
16 also had a sister named Sarah, but -- that side, but when I
17 was born, my biological mother and her husband, when I was
18 born -- my parents were there. When I was born, they gave
19 me to my biological father.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

21 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And my mother -- I
22 never, ever called her my stepmother, but my mom --

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- that's who I call my
25 mom.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And that's how it was
3 back then.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And so Hinook was my
6 brother. That's my history.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow, that's amazing. Thank
8 you for sharing that.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And my father afterwards
10 that took in children that wasn't theirs, but after the
11 Spanish flu when my mother got back from Makkovik as a
12 child, she was taken by -- I'm not sure if my mother was
13 taken by someone, but anyway, after my father died, his
14 wife, second marriage, she died, and he married my -- my
15 mom.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And she raised Jonco
18 Meister (ph) and Selma Lid (ph), Ed Markus Moses (ph), and
19 they all call my mother -- my parents their parents.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And they call me their
22 sister.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So although they had
25 different surname, their children still call my parents

1 grandparents.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh?

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. And -- and their
6 children still call me their aunt, and I'm not going to
7 change the way it was.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. I can't change
10 the past.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But that's how it was.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Do you have children?

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I got seven.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

16 (LAUGHTER)

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. I -- I was
18 married twice.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: First one was very
21 abusive. I left that. I left my first marriage. I can't
22 blame everything on him.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I'm also to blame, eh,
25 because my father taught me not to hate.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I learned to forgive.
3 The forgiveness came from my father.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: That I have to forgive
6 people that did me wrong.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Because if I don't
9 forgive and I carry the anger, the revenge, later, the
10 negativity is going to destroy my self-esteem.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Take over.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: But I had to learn to
15 forgive in my time. It doesn't mean I had to forgive them
16 in person.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Some of them, I forgave
19 their spirits.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I don't want -- I might
22 not like somebody, but I still pray for them.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: It's their behavior I
25 don't like.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh?

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So a lot of things that
5 I learned, I learn a lot from my father mostly.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm. Wow. How many children
9 did you have in your first marriage?

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: In Goose Bay?

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I had five of them here.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. Okay.

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: One in New Brunswick and
15 one in Nain.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

17 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: Did you say New Brunswick?

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Huh?

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Did you say -- sorry, what
21 did you say?

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: One is in New Brunswick.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, okay. Okay.

24 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: She works in
25 Corrections.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

2 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. The other one is
3 in Nain.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

5 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And I have
6 grandchildren.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: And I have
9 great-grandchildren.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

11 (LAUGHTER)

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So my seed is growing.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. That's right.

14 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

15 (LAUGHTER)

16 MS. ALANA LEE: And you're probably the cool
17 grandma.

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah, but that's part of
20 me.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: That's part of my
23 history.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. But I'm not going

1 to stop helping someone else if they request my help.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

3 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. Right now,
4 it's -- last Friday, I -- I tried, but one showed up.
5 That's okay, because I'm trying to start small
6 but -- 'cause when I was working, although I mention to my
7 boss a while back in the past, I'd like to have a shadow.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I have to pass on my
10 teachings or whatever --

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: -- to someone else
13 because I -- I really don't want to die with me.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Pass it down so they can
16 continue. So right now, I'm going to start very small, and
17 I'm going to be teaching them. First, I have to see where
18 they are at.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. M'hm.

20 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: That's how I
21 (indiscernible).

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow. Yeah.

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: So those are the kind of
24 things I want to continue.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. Yeah. Just to kind

1 of go back, when we talked about recommendations a little
2 bit, you said the need for, like, the culturally and
3 community-based services, particular for after-care, and
4 then you had also talked about -- I can't remember the
5 name, the circle, but traditional practices that aren't
6 there anymore and the need to kind of bring those back, so
7 culturally -- like, cultural services, they're
8 community-based that come -- you know, are bringing back
9 their traditions for the after-care. Would you say -- is
10 that kind -- would that kind of encompass what you meant by
11 recommendations?

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** I -- I think that would
13 work, but the communities would have to be willing to do it
14 too.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And I think they would
17 have to be just walking the talk, not into their
18 addictions.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

20 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because it's really hard
21 to walk the talk.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

23 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh? But I -- I really
24 think it needs to be done.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Even if it's women
2 started first or whatever, you know?

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

4 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because women do go to
7 jail, too, you know?

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh, absolutely, they do.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

11 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And that would be a good
12 start.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

14 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And that will be their
15 support.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. I think -- I
20 think start small would then -- maybe it would get
21 stronger. Those women could also encourage the men --

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- the leaders in the
24 community.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. M'hm.

1 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah. Maybe even take on
3 some of those leadership roles.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. Those are the
7 kind of things.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

9 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah, because I remember
10 one time, one of my brothers Jack Olmeister (ph) -- I
11 called him my brother. He's dead now. When we were living
12 in Hopedale, he -- he also came back from Goose Bay, and he
13 lived in Hopedale, and the amilukakitiks (ph), the leaders
14 got together with him.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

16 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: They also got together
17 with another man, but that was different issue, but with my
18 brother, the amilukatiks, I remember, told him
19 that -- first, they wrote a letter to Nain, the
20 amilukatiks requested see if he could move to Nain, and I
21 don't know what he done, maybe abuse his women, not quite
22 sure, because my dad knew every talk. It was confidential,
23 it was their little thing, but he moved Nain with his
24 family.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

1 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And for I don't know how
2 long period of time, if he behaved well in Nain, that he
3 was also told, I believe, that he could return back to
4 Hopedale.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Back then -- although
7 there was RCMP, and court wasn't so strong like now.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** But then, the
10 amilukatiki (ph) met with him, and he moved to Nain,
11 and -- but when he moved to Nain, he didn't come back
12 to -- he didn't go back to Hopedale.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh, okay.

14 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. Yeah. But that
15 was then.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Hm.

17 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because then the people
20 in Hopedale, the amilukatiki would have wrote a letter to
21 Nain and tell them -- they wrote letters back and forth, I
22 guess, about, how's the person's behavior, and stuff like
23 that --

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

25 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** -- and if they didn't

1 want to return, they also let them know that they didn't
2 want to return.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. Those were
5 the -- that's their communication back then is writing
6 letters.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

8 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I guess for some, it
11 worked, but we cannot change the past. It's just too bad
12 in the past they didn't realize the Elders back then, the
13 amilukatiki already had the bylaws.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Eh? They didn't ask if
16 they had it or not.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: I remember growing up in
19 Hopedale.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

21 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: You know what? I think
22 I was 13 or even 14 or 16, whatever, how old. The -- the
23 church bell ring.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: 9 o'clock. You had

1 to -- oh, no matter how old you were, you had to go home.

2 Only adults were allowed out.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

4 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: 9 o'clock, you had to
5 rush home.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

7 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Now they don't do that
8 anymore.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: Hm.

10 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. That's one of the
11 rules the amilukatiki (indiscernible).

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, okay.

13 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

15 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: 9 o'clock. Oh.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

17 (LAUGHTER)

18 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Everybody went home.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

20 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Yeah. Yeah, I remember
21 that.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

23 MS. SARAH PONNIUK: Thank you for talking
24 with me.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: Thank you for sharing,

1 Sarah. Thank you. Do you -- is there anything else you
2 would like to add? Do you feel like you've been heard
3 today and you were able to express everything that you
4 wanted to?

5 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Well, I only shared what
6 I think I should share.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

8 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Because the stuff I
9 said, those are the kind of stuff who I been working with
10 all my life.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. M'hm.

12 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** The most help I had
13 was -- although it's not part of my culture, a lot of help
14 I had was in the sweat.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Eh?

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

18 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** And -- but
19 although -- even though -- but they don't serve us as
20 strong as they used to, but I think the stories still needs
21 to be told.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah. Yeah.

23 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** Yeah. That's it.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** That's it? I think that's a
25 great place to end. Thank you, Sarah.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jenessa Leriger", written over a horizontal line.

Jenessa Leriger

March 27, 2018