National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Encore Services Plus Hotel
Grande Prairie, Alberta

PUBLIC

Sunday March 18, 2018
Statement - Volume 306
Coreen Ahnassay & Kenneth Tecomba,
In relation to Olivia Honey Kay Ahnassay

Statement gathered by Wendy van Tongeren,
Commission Counsel

Verbatim Words West Ltd.
ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that some names in this transcript and related documents be rendered anonymous. This order was made November 22, 2018.
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Documents submitted with testimony:

Item 1: Two diagrams hand drawn by the Witnesses, with map
key (3 pages)

Item 2: Fact sheet of events (1 page)

Item 3: Diagram of family tree (1 page)
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NOTE

The use of square brackets [ ] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. The use of a strikethrough mark indicates where an error was found in the original transcription. Amendments to this transcript were made by Susan Grant, Legal Assistant with National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ on October 9, 2018 at Vancouver, British Columbia. To make the amendments, Ms. Grant listened back to the source audio and video recordings of the proceeding.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay so, for the sake of the recorder, Wendy van Tongeren here and I'm in the Hotel Services Plus in Grande Prairie and it's the 18th day of March 2018. It's about 10 minutes -- oh five minutes to 10:00 in the morning and Coreen Ahnassay and Kenneth Tecomba are about to come in. That's A-h-n-a-s-s-a-y for Coreen and Kenneth T-e-c-o-m-b-a. And they will be talking about the death of Olivia Honey Kay Ahnassay who was killed on November 18th, 2010. She was born on March 18, 1983.

So, I'll bring those people in and get the consents signed.

ROSANNE MORPHY: Oh, you're back okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

ROSANNE MORPHY: Do you want me to call them in?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yes.

ROSANNE MORPHY: Okay, perfect.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And the lady who came in is Rosanne Morphy. I'll have everyone introduce themselves when they come.

ROSANNE MORPHY: So, we're just going to come in here. Right in here. Just grab -- Wendy, this is Kenneth.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Hi Kenneth. Nice to meet you.

Wendy is my name.

ROSANNE MORPHY: This is Coreen.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Hi Coreen. Nice to meet you.

ROSANNE MORPHY: And this is Michelle MacIsaac, she's with (indiscernible), so she'll be the supporting (indiscernible) here.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, so good to meet you.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, where do you want me to sit, beside you or across from you? Or where were you sitting? Are you sitting --?

ROSANNE MORPHY: Okay, I will see you guys later.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm going to sit right here.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay. Thank you.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, I'm going to tell you right off the start that the -- this is a video camera and it's already on, because I -- I just wanted to record everything and this is an audio and that we'll be getting -- asking for your consent, actually signing a consent.
So, but we'll kind of go -- it's good to see you. I was trying to reach you yesterday.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Oh.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: As well as 50 other people, because I know you're so busy organizing this, but it's lovely to meet you too.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Thank you, nice to meet you.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, we're just waiting for Rosanne. So, maybe we could start with the consents.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And I'm just going to warm up my coffee and then I'm good.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, and would you like something, there's coffee and then there's a muffin if you'd like one, and -- or even if you had some water --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Want some water?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I guess that would nice.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mixed with the ginger ale, hey.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, the idea of a consent is that because we're recording this both visually and -- and audio, it may be that you want this to be private and that you don't want people to see. And so, you're going to choose what you want, because I -- I already know that you want to -- to speak to somebody from the commission. And, but we need to be a little bit more detailed about exactly what you want to do.

And I should tell you who I am. My name is Wendy van Tongeren and I actually don't have cards, so I just wrote this out, so you could at least see my name in writing. I'm -- I'm married to a man who's from Holland so that's a Dutch name. And I'm a lawyer with the National Inquiry and I have actually been a lawyer in British Columbia for about almost 40 years, 39 years. And I -- I know because --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: I couldn't hear her, sorry. You can hear her though?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I've got these two --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: I know she's really looking at your eyes --

COREEN AHNASSAY: How you been?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, I -- I actually for -- was with the inquiry, I actually worked as a prosecutor in British Columbia for 33 years. So,
I know that you're going to be talking about your
daughter and step-daughter and what happened.
And so, I -- I'm very familiar with the court
system, because I worked as a prosecutor. So, I
am very sorry as well to hear about your loss.
And I have had the experience of listening to
people about these things.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Mm-hm.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And I promise you I'll do my best
to listen to you (indiscernible). So, so that's
who I am.

So, back to the consent. I'm just going to
read this and then I'll put it into language that
is easier to understand, so. The -- it says
here, consenting to allow the National Inquiry to
record or take your statement for use and the
inquiry may disclose your name, your face, your
voice and other identifying -- identifying
features. So, for example, you were talking
about your daughter whose name is the same last
name as yours. So, that would be an -- an
identifying situation okay.

So, in this one, you're consenting that all
to be disclosed including your family, any
photographs that you may have brought today, any
audio or visual documents and the consent also
applies to any applicable freedom of information
and privacy laws. So, in other words, if -- if
somebody asks through channels that are available
to them for something that went on that you're
also prepared to provide that to them as well.
And if any identifying information is publicly
televised or available, social media, I cannot
later withdraw my consent.

You see this is -- this is a public inquiry.
So, everything is supposed to be public unless
somebody asks that it not be public. And the
purpose is that normally with an inquiry the
government has provided the funds and appointed
people to inquire into things that are going
horribly wrong. And the public has a right to
hear what it is what's going horribly wrong and
to hear how the -- the government might try to
make it better. Okay, so that's -- that's why
it's public.

So, that's option number one. So, option
number one is right here. Is that we may
disclose information, okay? And your identity. That's supposed to be an "N", so that you may disclose. So, let's see what option number two says, okay?

The second one says, that you agree that we record it, or take the written statement, but we may not disclose your name, your face, your voice, or any other information that might identify you, because you -- although you want to speak to the Commissioners you don't really want anyone else to know. And similarly, with your -- any photographs or video, so the only exception would be in -- if there is an application under the information of privacy laws. Some people go through a process of applying for information and then it would be -- go to them, but it would be with conditions. So, this one is that no -- except under the law.

So, this one people get to see your lovely faces if they want. They get to hear about the members of your family that you talk about. They hear your voice. So, basically, they will know who you are. In this one, no, they don't it's private.

So, which one do you want? Do you want number one or do you want number two?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: People to hear what you're saying, is it okay for people to hear what you're saying, and they'll see your face on there? You wanted things to be different.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: They'll -- they'll know it's you.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: They'll know it's you talking, but it will -- are you okay with that?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Mm-hm. Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: One?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. You've probably -- have you spoken public before about what happened to your daughter?

COREEN AHNASSAY: No, this --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Should I shut that door or are we still waiting for someone?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's -- it's Olivia.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, just --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did you call her Olivia?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Just for some people that -- some of our friends that did know her.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, sorry about -- the door was open, it makes a big difference doesn't it?
KENNETH TECOMBA: We -- we told her like, how come I don't see her around and stuff like that, and we -- we told them just it's Olivia (indiscernible). She's -- she's got lots of friends who phone her and some -- sometimes people came across us and said, how come I don't see her around anymore? What does he go, going to school or something? She -- she told them like she was killed and they just -- sometimes they break down and so -- it's all -- (indiscernible).

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's terrible. That's not my pen. Sorry, I'm just getting a -- I actually, there's a pen that I like to use.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Oh, yeah, I'm like I have a certain pen too.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Are you like that -- there's --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- a pen that you like to use.

So, when people noticed that Olivia was missing because you hadn't -- they would ask you where is she? And those are the people that you spoke to mostly about it?

KENNETH TECOMBA: It was, yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Because I did -- I did check online to see if there was a story, like in the media, and I couldn't find one. Was -- was there newspaper stories about her death, or was there anything on TV?

KENNETH TECOMBA: The -- they put it on Echo and stuff like that. I know that, Echo.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, what is that? I haven't heard of that before?

KENNETH TECOMBA: It's the news. Local newspaper.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I see, okay. Okay, so what -- what do you think, and I'll ask you individually. So, Coreen, what -- and I know that you spoke to Michelle about it at little bit here.

So, you're going to tell your story and -- and if people are looking at it, if the media wants to see it or something and -- and report on it, are you okay that they would know who it is, who's telling the story? Or would you prefer that it's -- it's private, that people, they may hear the story, but they don't know who you are?

COREEN AHNASSAY: (indiscernible)

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)
Statement – Public
Coreen Ahnassay & Kenneth Tecomba
(Olivia Kay Ahnassay)

1 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so is it, is it this one,
2 where they can see your beautiful face and you'll
3 hear about your family? Or is it this one where
4 you just prefer that you keep your identity
5 private? Is it number one you want, or do you
6 want number two?
7 COREEN AHNASSAY: This one. Should I -- should I that
8 one?
9 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: This one? Everyone agrees, it's
10 this one? Number one?
11 MICHELLE MACISAAC: Number one?
12 COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
13 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. And Kenneth, what about
14 you?
15 KENNETH TECOMBA: I should say both for me.
16 COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, both.
17 KENNETH TECOMBA: 'Cause sometimes they
18 (indiscernible). People that know -- know her,
19 came across me as how come I don't see her and I
20 just take it, let's go for a walk and you start
21 to tell -- they'll tell the guy so what happened.
22 I -- I didn't -- I don't tell them that she got
23 stabbed, but just -- I just told them that she's
24 deceased.
25 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, if it -- it can't be both.
26 If you wanted both, we'd have to go to number
27 two.
28 KENNETH TECOMBA: Okay, well number one is to be good,
29 yeah.
30 COREEN AHNASSAY: Number one should be. One.
31 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You want number one? And --
32 KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
33 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Number one? Okay. So, Michelle
34 could you help me with -- and I'll talk to you
35 Kenneth over here.
36 Okay, so here's the form, so it says this
37 one here that you want. That's like number one.
38 KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
39 MICHELLE MACISAAC: The first one --
40 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then we need to fill this
41 out.
42 MICHELLE MACISAAC: -- this is the first one. It says
43 I'm here by consent, you're allowing --
44 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you want me to fill this out
45 for you or -- or are you?
46 KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah (indiscernible)
47 WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You want me to fill it out?
48 Okay. Here you go.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Mm-hm.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: -- the National Inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women to record and take a witness statement.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What's that?

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)

MICHELLE MACISAAC: By the use of the MMIWG.

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What's that?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: The MMIWG may disclose your face, they may see your face, your voice and other identifying information about me and my family, my statement and my photographs, audio visual.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then you just write your name.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, this is number one.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, you'll have to sign here and then I'll put your -- your name here.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You have nice printing.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, witness, okay, so, your name is C-o-r-e-n Ahnassay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: [Address redacted].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Community name].

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

KENNETH TECOMBA: I used to be an employee EMR --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Hm?

KENNETH TECOMBA: I used to work for emergency medical services.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And your postal code?

COREEN AHNASSAY: [Postal code].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, you'll have to sign it right here, your name. Today is March 18.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Which services?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Emergency medical services.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, did you?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's my --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Your baby's birthday.

COREEN AHNASSAY: On my baby's birthday.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, you were filling out forms about people's health and --

COREEN AHNASSAY: So, on my baby's birthday.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yes, I used to take care of sick people, seeing them taken to the hospital.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And then I have to print my name here that you understand.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's too -- I -- I read an article recently that people who worked in health care it's they're -- they're the most popular profession of all.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay. So.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: People, the public really like people who work in healthcare.

KENNETH TECOMBA: What -- what --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did you find that?

KENNETH TECOMBA: But -- but I got sick and I didn't go back.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Let's put the Kleenex right here for you. Is that okay or do you prefer --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh. Michelle you're --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Can I keep the Kleenex closer here?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, yes, of course.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And are you consenting to being on there as well?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yes. I need to fill one out too or?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well probably.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Whatever they choose I will follow, so...

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, like I'll get yours at the end if you --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay. So, I'm going to leave this here just in case it gets hard for you. Warm up -- do you want to warm up in there?

COREEN AHNASSAY: No, it's okay. I'm good.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, how's everybody feeling? Do you have questions? Would you like some questions to begin?

KENNETH TECOMBA: I'm a little bit tired. I woke up at five o'clock and then fell -- fell off the bed.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You fell out of bed?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, boy.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah, just too cold in there. Maybe looking for a blanket or something.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was it today that you had your long drive or was that yesterday?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yesterday.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay. So, yeah, so you were in a bed you weren't used to.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Today's a --

COREEN AHNASSAY: This -- this is the one that she got murdered.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And today's her birthday.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yes, she'd be 28 today or? Let's see, how old was she when she -- no sorry, she was born in 1983, so she'd be in her 30's.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She was born in 1983 I think is it?


WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, so, she'd be 35?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Five, 35 today, so.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, she'd be, yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And she's got one daughter.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Does she? And where is the daughter now?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Her daughter lives with his dad. And her uncle killed my daughter and I didn't like -- I was -- I was quite angry with him, but he's in jail. The one that killed my daughter, he's in jail. And two months ago, he got out and he rape another person and then he went back to jail. And March 23 he's going to court in High Level and that now I get the letter from where he's going to be and stuff like that. But no contact, no -- no contact my family.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And I know, like they tell us -- they tell me where he's going and where he's at cause he can't go near me.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, I --

COREEN AHNASSAY: And today's my -- her birthday.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, let's write some important things --

COREEN AHNASSAY: When -- when it's March coming, my mom's birthday March 5 and she passed away too.
And when March comes up, I feel like this loss every time I go. I call my daughter, happy birthday and every time my mom's birthday too. I phoned her, or I called her, I hugged my mom and I kissed my mom. Happy birthday. There's no more. Every time is March comes up, I tell my husband, it's March, when it's March coming up. I feel like I'm lost. Cause I don't say happy birthday to my daughter no more. It's kind of hard for me. But he -- I always talk to him, and now he's always beside me.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: He's a good man.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And I don't cry. Like the day she died I went in the hospital, I never cried. I don't know why I don't cry. It's -- even my mom died, I don't cry, I don't know why. I always pray -- prayed when I talked to God last time I prayed, and I talk to my mom and my daughter that I loved them, I love you and stuff like that.

It's kind of --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, as we go, I'm going to write some important things on here just to make sure I get them right, okay? So, I'm just going to check. So, so your -- your daughter's name is Olivia --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Olivia Honey Kay Ahnassay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Honey?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Honey Kay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, that is spelled like honey that the bees make?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Olivia Honey -- Honey Kay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Kay, K-a-y?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And Ahnassay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that's -- I think that's A-h --

COREEN AHNASSAY: A-h-n-a-s-s-a-y.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Excellent, thank you so much. And she was -- today would be her birthday.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, today's her birthday.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, it's March 18th?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, March 18, 1983. And she died on November 18, 2010, she died.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Thank you very much. And --
COREEN AHNASSAY: I always remember that day she died. And my other brother she -- he died November --
October 11 my brother died, and my mom died --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you want -- do you want me to write these dates too? October 11th your brother died?
COREEN AHNASSAY: My brother?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
COREEN AHNASSAY: I lost my brother Malcolm Ahnassay and I lost my sister Tina Rita and my mom, Mary Jane Ahnassay (indiscernible) [my mom].
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so mom is Mary Jane. Yeah, and so you said that she died in March too which is why March is a sad month for you. Your mom died in March?
COREEN AHNASSAY: My mom's birthday?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Or is it her birthday?
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Birthday, your mom's birthday's in March, right?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, March 5.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay. So, her --
COREEN AHNASSAY: 1946.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. March 5, 1946. And she's -- she's passed now? Is your -- is your mom -- is your mom still alive?
COREEN AHNASSAY: She died already.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yes, right.
COREEN AHNASSAY: In 2000 -- you got it there -- it was four, three years ago. 2015.
KENNETH TECOMBA: 2015.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Somewhere around there she died.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, you've told me about a lot of people that you would talk to.
COREEN AHNASSAY: My little brother she got -- my brother Malcolm he -- he -- my brother, other brother murdered him so.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh.
COREEN AHNASSAY: He stab him -- he stab him with a knife.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh.
COREEN AHNASSAY: When we're out.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm so sorry.
COREEN AHNASSAY: And when I'm out in treatment and then we had -- we had a phone call and my brother died. So, that's why I had to come here. And I never finished my -- my treatment.
And then 2007, we both we went to treatment. From there we don't -- we don't drink no more, 'til today we don't drink, so. But I miss my daughter a lot. This is my heart, yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I -- I have two daughters. One was born in 1982 and one was born in 1984.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: It's right in between Olivia.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: One older, one younger than Olivia.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, you know God was making sure that good babies were being born in 1982, 1983 and 1984.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. My daughter -- my daughter's daughter --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: We named her [Granddaughter 2]. And she's my heart. When I come over -- when I come over I always take I always take him -- take her and spend the night with me in a hotel. And then after we go home and then when her mom's driving her around to see her sometimes, she said let's go see grandma right then and then that's the hotel that grandma goes.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, when -- when -- how old is she now, [Granddaughter 2]?

COREEN AHNASSAY: She's about three, four? Three years old.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, does -- what does she call you, do she call you grandma?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, grandma. She always say grandma.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And does she put her arms like this and run, run, run, run, run?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. I see -- when I see her it just seems like my daughter's right there.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, oh good.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Always my heart and yesterday I went to visit her. She said, grandma where are you going? Are you going home? Yeah. Not -- not home, but over here. Grandma can I come, and she start crying then I have to tell her I'll be back tomorrow visit you. I'll lend you my tablet, so okay and that she was just playing on it. And then I left. I always come with it.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'd love to meet her, I can just imagine it.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, she's my heart now.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Brings warmth to your heart.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She -- yeah, we named her [Granddaughter 2], that's why. It seems like just my daughter's is like that. If I see her, she's my heart, but that's now grandma, grandma, she comes to me and then she hugs me, and she kisses me and stuff like that. And it's so wonderful for me.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I know, doesn't it feel wonderful? I have grandchildren too. I know what that's like.
COREEN AHNASSAY: I've got 12 grandchildrens.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, that's way more than I have.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Three kids and my two. No, three.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Wow, that's a lot of food when you bring them all together for Christmas.
COREEN AHNASSAY: But never -- they never even visit us in [Community 1].
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Only sometimes like if somebody going a gathering or something, only that time they visit us.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is it far away from where they live or?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Edmonton. Edmonton.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay. Yeah.
KENNETH TECOMBA: I got two boys and one girl. And my daughters got a little boy, when she was 30 years old. Yeah, and my oldest boy is in Grande Prairie and what -- what he's doing up there is something to do with oil.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, not surprising.
KENNETH TECOMBA: And Ken, my youngest one is -- he's -- I don't know he's just -- he's got open heart surgery when he was small, so he just can't work or can't lift any heavy stuff. All he does is just play games all day and that's all he does.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well it keeps his mind active I guess. So, so what about you guys? So, the -- your -- the little girl, [Granddaughter 2], when was she born? So, she's about four, she was probably born about 2014?
COREEN AHNASSAY: My granddaughter?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
COREEN AHNASSAY: I got a phone from her mom. You see, but it's in January or something?
KENNETH TECOMBA: [Granddaughter 1] I think (indiscernible).
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Granddaughter 1]. [Granddaughter 1] my other granddaughter [Granddaughter 1], her name has got on -- that's Olivia's daughter, and she's about 15, 16 now.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay.
KENNETH TECOMBA: 15, 16.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Or maybe 13?
KENNETH TECOMBA: 12 or 13.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She's 12 or 13 now, around there.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so, what I'm really trying to get at is how old you guys are. So, because you know when I -- when my grandson was born, if you can believe it, I was 60 years old. So, he's going to be, let's see, seven this year, and I'm going to be 67 this year. So, it's very easy for me to remember my age because I just always know my grandson's age, and I just add 60. That's easy math, right?
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, do you have easy math for your grandchildren? Like can you -- can you -- when you figure out the age of your grandchildren, can you go, ah ha, now I remember how old I am?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Me -- my grandchildren is hard, there's more (indiscernible). My grandson, oldest one, he's about 11 years old.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: And from there they're all like that.
KENNETH TECOMBA: You're not talking about (indiscernible)?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?
KENNETH TECOMBA: You're not talking about (indiscernible)?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Mine is 1964 October 8th, 55 years old, I'm going to be 55 this year. Almost few more years, 60.
KENNETH TECOMBA: You've got to guess.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And how about you Ken?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Guess.
KENNETH TECOMBA: It's 57 years old.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So, Michelle I don't need to ask you your age.
Okay, so I'm just going to talk a moment about what the commissioners would like to see out of this session that we're having.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Mm-hm.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: They were appointed by the government, but they're not part of the government.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's -- it's separate. They were appointed to look into the -- the fact that there have been so -- there's been so much violence towards Indigenous woman and girls and -- and also lesbians and gays and trans people who are Indigenous.
So, it's -- is it okay if I use the word Indigenous or would you prefer not to use it?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Doesn't matter.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is it okay? Okay. So, they need to look into that. And when you think about it, like you just think about our lives every day and what you experience, and you probably know Indigenous women and girls who are involved in domestic violence situations. You probably know some who have disappeared. You may know some who have been sexually assaulted or raped like you say. There -- there may be some who actually have been assaulted by other Indigenous women or other women.
There -- there -- if you think about it and I'm sure you could tell me many, many more types of violence that Indigenous women and girls have experienced.
So, that's a big job for the -- for the commission to figure that out. Because it's not just -- it's not just one type of person who is going around doing all these things. There are many different types of people and different events that happen that result in violence against women.
You probably saw it when you were working with the health world --
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- as well, hey Kenneth? Yeah.
So, what the commissioners are supposed to do is inquire. And one of the ways they inquire is by
starting with the family hearings, which is listening to family members who have lost loved ones. And so, you're exactly in the right place.

It -- it also includes however the women and the girls or their relatives who talk about -- they're still alive and so they're -- they call them survivors. They may have experienced violence in residential school or -- or in a job that they had or just walking down the street and something awful happened. Like there's many opportunities [abuses] that people take.

So, it's lost loved ones as well as people who are survivors we call it. And what they're -- what the commissioners want to know, what is going on and -- and the word is, I'm going to write it on the board. Here's some words that are important. One is systemic, the other one is vulnerable, and I think the other one is violence. And these are the words that are used in writing the job description of what the commissioners are supposed to do.

So, number one they're saying well we have these -- these women and girls, Indigenous women and girls, who have suffered violence and it could be in a scenario where they've been kidnapped or, you know, they've disappeared. It could be that they're victims of homicide, like what your daughter was. It could be that it's still ongoing even, and they're survivors or they're talking about something in the past.

So, the thing is they're -- they're talking about these. They want to know, using these examples, what is going on systemically. Which means when you look to whether it be the police, or child welfare, or education, or the coroners, or health. If this was a big safety net, and you know what a safety net is like? You know, like if you -- if you have a trapeze person and they fall off the trapeze and they bounce on the safety net, but they're okay because there's a safety net? They're saying, if there are these health, police, child welfare, education, coroners, other peoples whose job it is to keep Indigenous women and girls safe, where are the holes in the -- in the safety net? Where are the examples of over and over and over again, girls become vulnerable, which means that -- an
example of vulnerable would be a first-born baby,
first-born baby cannot look after itself.

But we grow up and we can look after
ourselves, but sometimes there are things that
are created by the government or the systems that
are designed to look after us that create holes
in our safety net. So, we get -- we get -- and
these vulnerable women become victims of violence
because of the holes in the safety net.

So, that's what they're trying to figure
out. So, an example -- I think one of the
examples that I've heard that -- that people
might not think of and -- and sometimes we
consider it kind of normal because we see it
every day, but we have to question these things.

So, an example is you -- a woman has
children say, and then for whatever reason child
welfare decides that she isn't a good mother and
so they want to take the children away and they
take the children away, and what that means is
that she doesn't get money anymore. And
therefore, she can't even afford a place to live.
So, she -- or she doesn't have enough money to
look after herself. So, she ends up vulnerable,
because as long as you have a woman who doesn't
have the money to pay for an apartment, to find a
safe place to live, or even if you -- you don't
have enough money to find a place where someone's
not going to kick in your door or you know cause
you trouble, like a neighbour or something.

So, that's an example, so, one thing that we
need to look at is, is it really a good idea when
you take a woman's children away that she loses
all her money, so she doesn't have a place to
live. So, that's an example.

But there's many other examples too, because
that's just one agency that's giving out money.
But there's the other agencies about what police
do when crimes are reported to them. How they
investigate for example. There's -- there's
examples of coroners when they're determining a
cause of death. Examples of education where, you
know our -- all the Indigenous girls getting a
good education so that they can look after
themselves when they are -- are -- are adults and
teenagers and adults.

So, what -- what I'm going to ask you to do,
and -- and I'm going to close up the zipper on my
mouth so that you do all the talking, is to tell
your narrative about what happened to your
daughter right from, you know you can start even
from the time she was born and some of the things
that happened in her life that may have
contributed to -- to make her vulnerable or may
have contributed to make her strong. Because
we're also trying to identify the things that are
working, so that we can do more of that.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Mm-hm.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, tell us about your daughter
and then tell us about, you know the weeks before
and then the day that you found out that a
horrible thing had happened.

And then tell us what happened after that,
like how did the people around you who have this
safety net, this job of the safety net, how did
they deal with it? How did they help you? How
did they help solve it? How did they help make
your life better?

Like for example Michelle, it's so obvious
to me, Michelle with her beautiful pink sweater,
like it's sort of like, hey, I'm here to help
you, and I have a beautiful pink sweater and I
have a wonderful smile. And so, I can tell
already that she helps, right?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Exactly.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I am so glad that she helps me a lot
when I'm sad and I don't how to thank you.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Oh, you know, don't --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And I think you too.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Thank you.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, so yes. Tell us the stories
about what has helped, but also tell us the
stories about, you know, why did that happen,
that -- that doesn't feel right the way that
happened. And go right through to through the
court system and I -- and I -- another important
thing I want to write here is the name of the
person who was found responsible, what is -- what
is his name?

COREEN AHNASSAY: I don't know.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Arthur.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Arthur Gallant.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Gallant.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Gallant.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: G-a-l-l-a-n-t?

COREEN AHNASSAY: I think so.

KENNETH TECOMBA: G-a-l-l-a-n-t -- e-n-t.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Say again?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: He's not sure if it's "E" or "A".

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Yeah, so and no one's told me that I'm -- I need to hurry in any way, so we can take breaks, we can -- you can talk for a while and Kenneth can talk for a while, but just don't interrupt each other okay? Like just --

COREEN AHNASSAY: No, that's all --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- we're going to have a rule where no interruption, we just --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Can I ask them questions if I want to know more to or not?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: As long as -- as long as -- as Coreen and Kenneth agree to questions, yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: (indiscernible).

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And if they need the help of questions that's -- sometimes questions help.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah, that's what I was thinking sometimes.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: I want to know about when she was small and growing up and.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, yeah. Talk about my day Olivia -- when she was -- she was born to the day she died, that's what I'm going to talk about?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then well even beyond the day that she died. You're going to talk about how the police dealt with it, how people at victim services dealt with it, how hospitals dealt with it, how the courts dealt with it. So that -- it -- it goes beyond the day she died.

And I also want you to cover -- and we're going to have sort of like chapters in a book, right? And so, the chapters might be, we've done an introduction of who you are. The next chapter will be kind of a statement of what you're going to talk about, which is what we're talking about now and then you go to -- and you've introduced your family, so that's really helpful.

You probably could tell us more about where you live and -- and where your daughter lived and -- and so that we have a -- a good sense of your community. Like how large your community is and what services are -- are available to you.
And then we go to the -- the life of Olivia. And so, I like Michelle's idea about starting from the time that she was born, was a little girl, got older and older, where she lived, where she went to school, how she did, did she have any health problems or any problems that -- that you needed help with and were you able to get help. And then -- and then if Arthur was involved in her life earlier then you could mention that as well or if he was just --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then -- and then you go to -- so that's a chapter, and then the next chapter is -- that's -- let's call that background. It's like setting the stage. And then the next part is how she died and everything you know about that and tell us if you know it directly because you saw it or heard it, or if somebody told you about it. Because most parents aren't present when something happens to their daughters.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I had a phone call that's why I know my daughter she died.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: She's in the hospital that's why we went to hospital, and then she died already.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then the next chapter might be dealing with the courts.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Olivia about 11:00 at night, that's when she died. Was November 18th, 2012. 11:00 o'clock at night she died. And I think she already died when I went up to hospital and she died. I think the guy poke him in his heart or she just died right there. She died before that happened, she always come to his grandma in Chateh. Sometimes she comes to me, she phones me, she said, mom I need something to eat. She said just come over here and have something to eat or grab something to -- to take to your grandmas. And then she comes to my house sometimes and sometimes she needs a ride to go to High Level. They -- they lived in Bushe, living with his dad, my ex and -- and we have to take him -- take her back to High Level. She was doing okay and she -- she had her (indiscernible) [car]. Sometimes she end up in Assumption, Chateh, whatever. Sometimes she end up there drinking
somewhere else. Next day she comes, she calls me. And then after that we went to treatment then -- and then after we came back she calls me to take her back to Bushe and she said, mom did you quit drinking? Yeah, I said, yeah. That (indiscernible) to me mom, don't ever drink, love you so much. Yeah, I listen to you, I said to her and then we were coming -- we were bringing her back to Bushe, on the way she was so happy. And I told her not to drink and go back to Assumption.

And then ever since, I never talked to her for quite a while. And then next -- next thing I have a phone call that Olivia's got stabbed. Her sisters that -- her sister told me that in the phone she said that she's trying to take her, to take her and go home with her sister. But Olivia said that I just want to stay. And then she -- my -- sister went home and that Arthur and his wife, they're arguing, and she tried to stop them.

Like Olivia she's a nice person and care about peoples and she's helping people a lot. And she's -- then like saving Arthur's wife and I don’t know -- then she stabbed my daughter maybe three or four times.

And then I got call, them saying like my daughter, she phoned me then as soon as she phoned me I went to High Level, 11:00 o'clock at night and then there she died.

And I didn't even cry. If I'd have seen her, it was really hard for me. But I don't want to -- she's a nice person. She -- she did (indiscernible) [her] college, she went to grade 12, she's a nice girl. She's nice person.

KENNETH TECOMBA: The -- they went to Victoria for a volleyball tournament.

COREEN AHNASSAY: (indiscernible) she knows him too.

KENNETH TECOMBA: They won -- they won. First aboriginal Indigenous games and they -- they won. All -- all the trophies and she's -- she's the MVP. She's a spiker hey? Five -- I think she was five foot, three only. But she's tall and she can jump and spike. Boy she can spike, she can spike.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, this is Kenneth speaking and -- and so, where -- what was she competing in in Victoria?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Volleyball tournament.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, volleyball.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Volleyball tournament Indigenous.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And they won.

KENNETH TECOMBA: They won. Chateh girls won and she -- she's the MVP. Most valuable player.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And you're saying that she was actually -- well how -- she was five, eight did you say?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Five three I think.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, five three so -- so to be most valuable player she must have been hanging around the knees somehow.

KENNETH TECOMBA: But she's -- she can jump high and she -- she just -- the serving, I don't know how she served but the ball just go down.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh.

KENNETH TECOMBA: It's hard to get and they -- they almost got beat by Winnipeg, but they won, anyways, they won. And they got a big trophy and all the gold ribbons. They -- they got back, and they were on the newspapers and everything. I was proud of her, yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: I have a question I didn't know. You said Olivia went to grade 12?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, where did she go to school? Like that's not common in Chateh, people don't go to grade 12 often. So, how did that happen? Where did she have to go out or?

COREEN AHNASSAY: She -- she went to grade 12 in High Level.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

KENNETH TECOMBA: The lake in the --

COREEN AHNASSAY: What?

KENNETH TECOMBA: What was that lake called? Northern lake.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Northern Lake, oh so as an adult she went back to school?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay, as upgrading.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: That's good to hear. Cause they have an isolated community, very isolated your community.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. Yeah. She -- I don't know, probably she worked somewhere too, but I, like, I don't stay with this dad no more, that's why I
don't. Like they -- some day talk to me always in the phone, but they never even talk about their situation. Like I go out or stuff like that. But --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: How -- sorry go ahead.

COREEN AHNASSAY: But I know that day she got killed, just I mean, but when from like if I talk about it, I feel lonely without her or miss her a lot, especially in March. It's kind of really hard to talk about her life. It's just like me to talk about it, because I never talk about what happened or I just keep on living.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I just -- just don't talk about -- I don't really talk about it. My family or my kids, I don't -- I am always quiet person. Because I'm up -- when I was growing up my mom used to abuse me a lot. That's why I never talk about nothing. I'm an abused child, stuff like that and that's why I'm scared to talk about it. Because I used to -- my mom used to hit me with a broomstick when I was about this small.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay and so that --

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's why yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That's you know --

COREEN AHNASSAY: About seven years old, or eight years old.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: About seven years old. Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's why I don't even talk about my life and my kid's life. I just stay in my house.

    When I talk about it, it's just like, I don't know how to deal with it too. Because I don't really talk about it. When I talk about something, maybe they might like, I used to talk to my cousin Theresa and then she split it out all over.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Now you can see --

COREEN AHNASSAY: There I cut it off. I don't talk to no one. Even my husband, I don't talk to him.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I come home, watch TV, I don't talk. Quiet person. Always quiet person.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Have you always felt that the reason --

COREEN AHNASSAY: It's hard, like it's hard for me to talk about things like that. But I try -- I try to talk about it, but it's so hard for me.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: I'm happy you're talking about it today, you're letting it out.

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's why -- I don't talk. About -- just scared or none of this maybe that's why, but I don't go anywhere. (Indiscernible) [In my life he's] from Assumption too. But ever since I was taking him I would travel around and show me where it is.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And how long have you been with Kenneth?

COREEN AHNASSAY: (indiscernible).

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: How long have you been together with Kenneth?

KENNETH TECOMBA: 25 years.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Kenneth's right on top of it.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: He knows.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: He knows, well since the time my life was really fine.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I'm glad that she's here. She came (indiscernible) [to me, you want to] go to gathering[ing?]. This is my first time that I went over here. My first time being -- gathering people like that.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right and you've got two more days, don't you?

COREEN AHNASSAY: I never -- I never went like this before, never went. I don't even travel too, because I'm always working. I work five years, I've been janitor, five years.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm. What -- what working? What do you work at?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You said you were working?


MICHELLE MACISAAC: Janitor.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, janitor. Oh, where do you do that?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Five years.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And -- and this --

COREEN AHNASSAY: (Place of employment).

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Who -- who's your employer?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: (Place of employment). Where do you work?

COREEN AHNASSAY: (Location).

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Tell her about your reserve.
COREEN AHNASSAY: It's a small reserve, [Reserve name], they call {Reserve name}. It's good to live there.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Great.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Sometimes -- sometimes when people drink, and they walk even at night too. Sometimes scream. It's good place that we -- sometimes we have vehicle, we go hunting.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.

KENNETH TECOMBA: This place --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Hunting --

KENNETH TECOMBA: This place they call there's a third prairie, second prairie --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Town site.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Town site, new town site and trailer court.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Trailer court.

KENNETH TECOMBA: There's five places and -- and two are nice. Somethings going around and they all, everybody knows. Like this one guy from third prairie, you probably don't -- he said about retaliate, something about -- she's I they -- they -- they call her a third prairie newspaper.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She's got all the news.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Second prairie is a -- Robert Sochuk (phonetic) they call him a reporter for second prairie. And (indiscernible) Rosie they call a newspaper and trailer court and they call her a -- a land owner.

Something going around even the cops go -- go towards Prairie Road and learn about her with a siren on. Everybody knows like. We're just waiting for a phone call to say somebody's going to call me and see -- see what's going on. Sure enough they -- somebody got stopped and the truck is going to be towed away. Everybody knows it's too small a place. Whenever there's a check-stop, no vehicles are around. Because there's -- most people are driving without a license there. Yeah, so.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is -- is there a police office in -- in Chateh?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, and so I'd -- but I'd like you to explain, because you know, Michelle raises a really good point.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Four cops.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I have -- I have been to High Level because [personal information - redacted]. And -- but I haven't been to -- so this might not work, but for example, I'll tell you that I live in -- near a place called [personal information - redacted] and it's about right here. And it's a long way to go to [personal information - redacted], like it takes -- it takes me a long time. Sometimes if I -- there was -- if I had the road all to myself it would be about 35 minutes. But because there's always traffic sometimes it takes like an hour and a half for me to get to my job. And so, and coming home is even worse.

So, so that's a map. So, here's [personal information - redacted], here's my house, here's [personal information - redacted]. And the place that I -- places that I would like to know, I don't -- can you relate to this? Like can you tell me where Chateh is and where High Level is and where Prairie One -- first prairie and second prairie, those places are? Can you kind of draw it out?

KENNETH TECOMBA: I don't back in my head.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: From High Level.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: From High Level.

COREEN AHNASSAY: My daughter was a good person. She was a nice lady. She's always smile. Friends, got lots of friends too.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm. I'm just going to move this closer.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Even their friends they -- they misses her, every -- every -- everybody, like her friends, they know that day she born, they know their birthdays too. They connect to each other they're friends. She's got a lot of friends. And she's a -- she's always smile and like hey, likes to play games and stuff like that. Loves her daughter too. She's a nice person.

She never did -- she never did fight or nothing. Like she protecting people.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Like she wants to help people.

That's all she does. She's always care about people. Loving people, loving person. She likes people, people like to love them. Stuff like that.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Never (indiscernible)
MICHELLE MACISAAC: (indiscernible), I think it's
important to say, like this is where I get
groceries, our bank. Put all of your -- cause it
shows you're isolated, right?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She never gets mad. She never like
that. Not violent, she's not like that.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She's a happy girl. Ever since she
was born. I love her so much.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She's pretty just like today she
would have been with his dad, with her daughter
or she must be somewhere today.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, the grocery store is here,
bank, doctor, like everything, main area. How
long from here to here?
KENNETH TECOMBA: I do 30 minutes but four or five
minutes.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Can you -- can you walk up to the
camera and let me just look in -- what up holding
that picture so that we can make sure that we can
see that picture. So, try -- oh yeah, that's
much better. A little bit closer, see if you can
come. There you go. Okay, I'm going to hold
this, and you can see it there, you can see what
the commissioners are going to see. Is that
good?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That's your daughter.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, that's my daughter.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And today would be her birthday.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, her birthday.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She would be 35 today.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, thank you.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Mm-hm.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm so glad you brought this
picture. But you -- you probably carry it with
you all the time, do you or?
COREEN AHNASSAY: That's -- I don't have no pictures
of her, but this is my daughter's she gave -- she
gave it to me, because she's the one that she's
always hanging to each other.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
Statement – Public
Coreen Ahnassay & Kenneth Tecomba
(Olivia Kay Ahnassay)

COREEN AHNASSAY:  They never left each other, they
were always together.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Oh.

COREEN AHNASSAY:  But now she's the only one and two
boys, I have now.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Right.

MICHELLE MACISAAC:  So, the school what grade does the
school go to only?

KENNETH TECOMBA:  School's over right here.

MICHELLE MACISAAC:  And what grade does it go to?

KENNETH TECOMBA:  Let's see, up to 10 I think.

COREEN AHNASSAY:  My son got three daughters.  Two
girls and one boy.  My son.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Mm-hm.

MICHELLE MACISAAC:  So, you put high school over here,
they have to go to high school.

KENNETH TECOMBA:  Mm-hm.  Yeah.  Our house.

MICHELLE MACISAAC:  There is one there.

COREEN AHNASSAY:  They live in High Level.  And my
oldest daughter, she lives in (indiscernible).

So, she's got seven children.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Really?

MICHELLE MACISAAC:  This is part of -- what's your
nation called?  Dene Tha?

KENNETH TECOMBA:  Yeah.  I don't know.  I don't know
(indiscernible)

COREEN AHNASSAY:  (indiscernible) if I ask, when I
come over I spend the night.  I take only the --
I always take [Granddaughter 2].  I like her so
much.  But I am -- I -- I miss her so much.
She's always smiling, always smiling.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Yes.  Did you look like that when
you were that age?  Did she look like you?

COREEN AHNASSAY:  Huh?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Does -- does she look like you?

Olivia?

COREEN AHNASSAY:  Yeah, this is her tattoo.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Oh, yes.

COREEN AHNASSAY:  Yeah, there's the other one.  Yeah,
she's a nice lady.  Every time I got her
picture --

KENNETH TECOMBA:  What's the name of our First Nation?

COREEN AHNASSAY:  -- and teddy bear in it, but I
bought it and (indiscernible).

KENNETH TECOMBA:  It's on (indiscernible)

COREEN AHNASSAY:  She -- today is her birthday and I
said, happy birthday girl.  I say in my mind.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN:  Right.
Statement - Public
Coreen Ahnassay & Kenneth Tecomba
(Olivia Kay Ahnassay)

COREEN AHNASSAY: Because she's wherever they have to go --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Their spirit. That's what one guy told me. They always go with --
KENNETH TECOMBA: That's roughly but.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Can you just write your name on it and the date on it -- on the bottom.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Your name.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm looking to Kenneth when I said that.

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's why every morning I pray to my mom. To my daughter. I love her so much.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, we're going to use what Kenneth drew because I just want to be clear about where people were living.

KENNETH TECOMBA: March?

MICHIELLE MACISAAC: 18th today.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. Okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, I'm just going to show this to the camera. I have no idea if this is going to work, but there we go. Okay, so, can you show that to Coreen, Kenneth and let's use -- what did I do with -- oh there it is. Just -- just this is a big thick one, so, just with a dot or maybe even numbers, is the place where Olivia was born there?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, Assumption.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, can you put a one there?

KENNETH TECOMBA: The whole hospital.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Just a little one, not too huge because we -- but I want to be able to -- to see it.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Which --

MICHIELLE MACISAAC: Number one.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then put a number one, you -- you can use this pen if you like.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, we don't make it too big. Okay, and think about from the time she was born until the day that she died in 2010. Were there different places that she lived?

COREEN AHNASSAY: She goes to Bushe. She moved to Bushe. She grew up there.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: With his dad.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, I didn't hear the word you said, she's something there? What was the word you used? She worked there or what?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: She moved to Bushe with her dad.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She moved -- she moved to Bushe with her dad. So, why don't we mark that and put a number two.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Number two.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?

KENNETH TECOMBA: I got --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Oh.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Got cramps.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, well stand up.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Are you okay to stand up?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, she --

KENNETH TECOMBA: It kills me.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And exercise a little bit.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Kills me.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so there, and then put a two there.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Two?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yes, so one is where she's born and two is where she moved with her dad.

COREEN AHNASSAY: One and two -- yeah, Bushe.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And what -- what was her dad's name?

COREEN AHNASSAY: My ex?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's not his real dad. Natural dad -- her natural dad he's died.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay, so --

COREEN AHNASSAY: His name is [Father 2] (phonetic).

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay [Father 2] was the real --

COREEN AHNASSAY: He died too.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: He was drinking alcohol.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And which -- which dad did she move to Bushe with? What was his name?

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's my -- step-dad I think, [Father 1] (phonetic).

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: [Father 1], [Father 1] okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's his dad. Step-dad.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And is there a reason that she went there with [Father 1] instead of staying with you in Chateh?

COREEN AHNASSAY: No.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: No?

COREEN AHNASSAY: We split up together.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And I stay with this guy 25 years now.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I split up with him, my ex. He's just I don't like him. I was stupid that's why I end up with staying with him.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: How old was she when she moved to Bushe with him?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Maybe 10, 11.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: 10 or 11 years old? And she went and raised -- her step-dad raised her in Bushe?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay, I didn't know that.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, and who decided that she'd go with her step-dad and not live with you?

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's because she doesn't want to stay. I don't know.

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)

COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)

COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Who decided?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Child -- child welfare.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, she -- she -- they were by end child welfare and then her dad took them back.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. I see. [Father 1] took them back.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, my --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is that right? Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, my ex took them back.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Your ex. Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Because I was drinking too much that time.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And I can't handle them -- take them back because I was drinking.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And from 2007 we went to treatment, both of us. From there we quit drink. And I realized that drinking is no good --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: -- for your life.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I really like that too. I really like -- congratulations. Both of you.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: 10 years.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: 10 years.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That's amazing.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, where else -- did she live anywhere else besides that as she got older, or -- tell us anywhere else she may have lived?

COREEN AHNASSAY: She -- she used to live in towards to Fort McMurray, but it's just a little towards to Fort Vermilion for La Crete.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, yeah, I know that place.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: La Crete, she lived in La Crete?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Not really, not really La Crete --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: -- but just towards to --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Tall Creek?

COREEN AHNASSAY: I think so, but I don't know how to say it.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Here.

COREEN AHNASSAY: While you're going --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is it on there?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Lesque.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Even if it's --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Lesque, it's somewhere toward Lesque, like --

KENNETH TECOMBA: Boyer?

COREEN AHNASSAY: -- there's High Level, High Level and you go on your right here's Bushe and you go right is -- and then Fort -- here's Fort and La Crete here this way. Somewhere around here she would be.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So --

COREEN AHNASSAY: And right here is the bridge.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, Kenneth can you just write those places --

COREEN AHNASSAY: That where she --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- that she's pointing out.

COREEN AHNASSAY: She used to be doing like, they used to live with --

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)

COREEN AHNASSAY: Mr. -- Mr. -- no, I forgot her name.

But her daughter works at the nurses station.
KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible).

COREEN AHNASSAY: No.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Mrs. Rogers.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I think this is Mr. -- but she's very old now, that lady that she used to keep them.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: A white haired lady? A white lady?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: She works at the nurses’ station?

COREEN AHNASSAY: No, that one --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Oh the --

KENNETH TECOMBA: Are you talking about Anya (phonetic)?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: You know, probably (indiscernible).

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, I have a question, when she lived there, was she in foster care? When she lived there, so she was apprehended and placed in foster care there?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, she stayed with that family for a while. Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so, was that number three? I think that's number three, isn't it?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yes.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. Two -- two of them. Four of them.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: All three.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Four of them, four of them. [Child 1], Olivia, [Child 3] and [Child 4].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: You have four children?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Two boys, two girls. And I lost Olivia, so one girl, two boys.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right, okay. Okay, so, let's -- but that's --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Mrs. Williams. Yeah, that's the one.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Williams. Okay.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Oh, okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Mrs. Williams.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Williams.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, but Mrs. Williams --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You keep that because you might need it again.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Mrs. Williams she moved to Whitecourt.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is that -- is that right here?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Let me put right here -- excuse me?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I know.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Right there she -- Mrs. Williams, yeah, that's the one that she kept them.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And how old was she then when she went there, Olivia?

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)

COREEN AHNASSAY: So, she's about 16, 15 somewhere there. And their dad took them back on.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Again, he took them?

COREEN AHNASSAY: He quit drinking before us and so he took them back. I was (indiscernible) at that time.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, how old was she when she went there?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Maybe five, six years old.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And she stayed with that family for a long time?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: That's good to know. Now I'm starting to find out more about her.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, okay. And so, was she with Mrs. Williams from the time she was five until when she was 15 or 16?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So that is a long time, isn't it?

COREEN AHNASSAY: It's about -- she would -- yeah, I lost them, they were in care, but my ex used to beat me up, that's why. So, that's why I took off on him, that's why I left the kids with him. Then from there he start drinking too and then the kids has to go to a foster home.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And then after that -- their dad took them back. Now they live in Bushe. She had a girl. She --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so she went back to there. Have you -- so did she, I was trying to figure this out.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, Bushe at four again.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Bushe.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Two and then four.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh two, so that was two times
that she was in Bushe?
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah Bushe. And now she live here,
Bushe.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that's when she had a child
you said? Did you, I'm sorry, yeah okay.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: How old was she when she had her
baby?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Maybe 17.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, right after.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Me I had my first child when I was
about 13 years old.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm, 13? And who's the oldest?
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Child 1].
MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Child 1]'s the oldest, okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: And then?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Olivia.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, you were young when you had
Olivia too. How old were you when you had
Olivia?
COREEN AHNASSAY: They're one year apart.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: 14? You had Olivia at 14?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Well they're one year apart, so.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, from when the time you were 14
to 19 for the first five years, did Olivia live
with you and your ex-husband? You raised her at
that young?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And -- and that would have been
-- I can't remember the first place, oh at
Chateh.
COREEN AHNASSAY: My -- my mom used to beat me up
then. I got away. I run -- I run away and I
hung out with my ex.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: I was staying with him when about
12, 11, 12 years old, I started staying with him.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: But you didn't stay with him long
because you had another partner after.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So.
COREEN AHNASSAY: This was my first one.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Really, you were first?
Statement - Public
Coreen Ahnassay & Kenneth Tecomba
(Olivia Kay Ahnassay)

COREEN AHNASSAY: And then I went back to him. This was my first one.
KENNETH TECOMBA: I was --
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So --
KENNETH TECOMBA: I was too busy on -- on the road.
COREEN AHNASSAY: And now we went back --
KENNETH TECOMBA: I -- I've got five brothers in a band and drove all over the places. Five brothers in a band. Rock and roll band.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Wow, I never even knew you were such a young mother. I never knew that.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. I stayed with him 11 years though. And when I turned 13 I got my first time.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So -- I'm just going to draw this because it's easier to see.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Okay.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, 13 -- is this okay if I write here?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yes, yes.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Just because I know she likes to see things too and I --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I try to get -- I actually tried to get paper because I -- I prefer to keep the paper, but --
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I do have big pads.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: I hope this is a white board. Okay, so, at 13 you had [Child 1]?
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Child 1]?
MICHELLE MACISAAC: 14 Olivia?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay, so, what's -- what's their dad's name?
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Child 1]?
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Father 1].
MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Father 1]. And Olivia's?
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Father 2]'s her dad.
(indiscernible)
MICHELLE MACISAAC: And then you went with -- stayed with [Father 2] until you were how old?
COREEN AHNASSAY: No, I didn't stay with him, but --
MICHELLE MACISAAC: You went with the other man. What's his name?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh? [Father 1].
MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Father 1] come back.
COREEN AHNASSAY: No, [Child 3] (phonic) -- he's got another father, but not this -- not my ex-partner.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: But [Father 1]'s --
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Child 4] and [Child 1] got same dad, [Father 1].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay. Okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I wasn't sure -- who's got the same dad, there's sorry?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Child 1], Olivia -- and then who is next?

COREEN AHNASSAY: [Child 3].

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: [Child 3].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: How old were you when you had [Child 3]?

COREEN AHNASSAY: 16.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Wow, and the next one?

COREEN AHNASSAY: 18. [Child 4].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And what was that -- what's name?

COREEN AHNASSAY: 18, [Child 4].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, [Father 1] is [Child 1].
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And Olivia's dad. [Father 2] is Olivia's.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, [Father 2] is Olivia and [Child 4] and [Child 1] they got the same dad.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, [Father 1] is all three?

COREEN AHNASSAY: No.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: But [Father 1]'s the one who kept -- raised them.

COREEN AHNASSAY: This is -- this is [Father 3].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Father 3], oh.

COREEN AHNASSAY: No, this is right.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Father 3], oh [Father 3].

COREEN AHNASSAY: This is --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Father 3], okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, is the father, you mean?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And --

COREEN AHNASSAY: That's his dad.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: This and this is [Father 1].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay, I get it now.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, I'm just going to turn the camera around, so you can -- so I can see this.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah, so this -- so this, so.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Child 1] and [Child 4] is [Father 1]'s?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. Two kids (indiscernible) and two kids.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And so, [Child 1] is a girl,

Olivia obviously is a girl, and [Child 3] is a boy and [Child 4] is a boy?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And did we spell [Child 4] correctly? [Spells name]?

COREEN AHNASSAY: [Child 4].

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: How do you spell it?

COREEN AHNASSAY: [Spells name].

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: [Child 4], okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And this is the artist.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: I -- I was getting confused and I know you like to see things too. I like to see, so, I was -- okay.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, there we go, what a team.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Ever since that I grew up with [Father 1].

MICHELLE MACISAAC: You were 11 years old?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: When you went with him? Ran away from home?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah. We used to go out together and they told [Father 1] to stay with me, so we did that. And then after that I left [Father 1] there and went back to him. That's my first love.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Oh.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Maybe 10, 11, maybe 10 I went away.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: 10 years old?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, maybe around there.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Wow.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And then you and two other person that's why he told [Father 1] to stay with me.

So, I did. We loved each other. We broke up.

So, he has another --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: -- lady to stay with. So, I didn't even say nothing. Then we were back together. We left our family, we were one family. I love her ex and her ex loves me. We talked to our ex, we're family. We're not jealous to each other.

KENNETH TECOMBA: The reason why --

COREEN AHNASSAY: We're one family.

KENNETH TECOMBA: The reason why we -- we're not with each other I was always on the road, when she's
pregnant I was always on the road. Three
vehicles, go far away, to territories --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: They -- they're talking to you,
so I need to put this wherever cause they're
talking to you more than me. So, could you put
it on the counter?

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

KENNETH TECOMBA: -- up to Peace River, bars, we'd
play in the bars and outside. Barns, we play all
over -- all over the place. Rock and roll, so we
got jam sessions and battle of the bands. We --
we -- we had a good time.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What instruments do you play?

KENNETH TECOMBA: I play drums. Like I still got
nine-piece Tanner at home. But we're going to
start playing again.
My -- my brother died of pneumonia. He --
he's a drummer, in July. We -- we takes turns
playing drums. So, and on top of that my brother
lost his -- his youngest -- no his oldest son due
to pneumonia that too. So, he just got -- got
$50,000 worth of instruments just at a warehouse
now. It's all paid for and everything. We -- we
finance it and we have one -- one you'd play with
-- paid the whole thing off and in five years we
paid everything off.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Good for you.

KENNETH TECOMBA: 400 -- 400 keyboards it was still
good.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, Kenneth do you mind if we
just go back to the map for a moment?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so, what I'm wondering is,
Arthur, like where did he live in all of this?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Bushe River.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Bushe River.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And where -- is that near Bushe?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Bushe River's right here.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Bushe store is there.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Store is -- thought I had it --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Right here. Bushe's right here.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah Bushe.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Oh, the other one.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well that -- that's my note,
sorry. You don't need that one. It's on the --
it's on the next page.
KENNETH TECOMBA: I thought it was -- it's probably Bushe there.

COREEN AHNASSAY: There's Bushe and the -- Bushe store
(indiscernible)

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But you speak to each other is it
(indiscernible) that you're working [speaking],
is it?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah, yeah. Dene.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Dene.

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible).

COREEN AHNASSAY: Bushe store.

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible)

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Just move the two microphones.
No, just you could put it there, but just make
sure it gets both you and --

KENNETH TECOMBA: What store, house. It was right here.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Just for the record, it's 11:31,
so we'll probably be taking a break in a while.
Michelle's just left the room temporarily.

KENNETH TECOMBA: It was right here.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Where they live then right there.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, number five. Are these
houses or something or different locations?

KENNETH TECOMBA: There's -- there's hundreds and
hundreds of them.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Hundreds and hundreds.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Lots of houses.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, what relationship was Arthur
to you? Did you -- or did you know him? Like
was he --?

KENNETH TECOMBA: They're not related.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: He's what?

KENNETH TECOMBA: They're not related.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: They're not related. Sorry I --
earlier I thought it did, so I just wanted to
make sure I got that straight. Not related.
So, but did you know Arthur Gallant? Before
he murdered Olivia?

KENNETH TECOMBA: He -- his brother.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Brother, his brother.

KENNETH TECOMBA: His brother's got a -- baby by a --
was Olivia, his brother got a baby from -- from,
what the hell's his name?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: [Father 2]?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Westly Gallant. That's his --
Arthur's brother.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, Westly.
KENNETH TECOMBA: That's Arthur -- Olivia --
[Granddaughter 1]'s dad.
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Granddaughter 1]'s dad.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay.
KENNETH TECOMBA: [Granddaughter 1]'s is the baby.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So, he was like an uncle to
the baby?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Or yeah, [Granddaughter 1]'s uncle.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: [Granddaughter 1]'s uncle?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: All right.
COREEN AHNASSAY: He stabbed her mom. Olivia.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, I just, again I just want to
make sure that we get this right. So, here's
Arthur and he has a brother whose name is --
KENNETH TECOMBA: West -- West -- Westly.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Westly.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Westly. It's probably something
like that.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And Westly has --
COREEN AHNASSAY: He's Olivia's -- [Granddaughter 1]'s
dad, and Olivia's husband, Westly.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, just so I have this straight,
so, who is the - the mother of [Granddaughter 1]?
COREEN AHNASSAY: [Granddaughter 1]? Olivia.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Olivia. And that's this same
Olivia here?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, great. So, that means that
he is kind of like a brother-in-law.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Brother-in-law.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, brother-in-law, okay. So,
I'm just going to show my --
COREEN AHNASSAY: Brother-in-law.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, if you can see that, it's
right here. So, Arthur is the brother of Westly,
and Westly and Olivia are the parents of
[Granddaughter 1]. So, in fact Arthur is
[Granddaughter 1]'s uncle and Olivia's brother-
in-law, although they were never married, but --
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Same idea. Yeah. Wow, okay.
Thank you so much. Did you want to take a break?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Sure.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Sure, take a break. So, it's
12:35, how long would you like to take? Would
you -- are you going to eat?
KENNETH TECOMBA: I don't know. There's a restaurant
here, hey?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Have you got a -- have you got a
-- a room now in this hotel?
KENNETH TECOMBA: I don't know.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You don't know.
COREEN AHNASSAY: I don't know.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, I thought you were doing
that, but it -- it, normally they don't let you
in the rooms until three o'clock anyway.
COREEN AHNASSAY: But Michelle knows how we're -- she
-- she said she'll do something about it, so.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, about the -- yeah. I'm --
I'm just thinking in terms of making sure you get
some lunch, where the best place would be for you
to get some lunch. What kind of lunch would you
like? What kind of food do you like? What
restaurants do you like? Have you been in any of
the restaurants here, in --?
COREEN AHNASSAY: I don't think so.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Not here. When I come here I
usually go to Prairie Ball.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Prairie Ball, what's that?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
KENNETH TECOMBA: It's Chinese food.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, I see, so you like Chinese
food.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Just -- just pick -- pick whatever
you want it.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. Okay well let's -- we'll
just wait for Michelle. But -- but I -- it is
important that we -- we talk about what Arthur
did and what happened to him. Do you know what I
mean like?
COREEN AHNASSAY: What happened to him is when after
he stabbed my daughter, he took off. Ran away
and then the cops found him, tower, somewhere
tower in Bushe. And they apprehended and then
found the -- after my daughter got stabbed they
took him and he went to jail right there.
And then he went to court. They only sent
for about three years. I think he was in jail
ever since that. And last few months he just got out and the guy raped -- raped another person.

And then now he's coming up to High Level for another charge. March 23 he's going to High Level. And I don't want to see him, I don't like him.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: When he went to court for -- for what happened to Olivia do you --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Olivia yeah, first degree murder they charged first degree murder. (indiscernible) first degree murder charge. But I --

KENNETH TECOMBA: It -- it -- I found it a little funny like if it was a white man done that, he would get life right there hey? But --

COREEN AHNASSAY: Dene -- Dene --

KENNETH TECOMBA: Us Dene people, they kill each other he's got three years to him.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Three years murder.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so, it wouldn't have been first degree murder, because first degree murder is a mandatory at least 25 years.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah, but he only did three years.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, it must have been something else.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Three years.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: It got dropped I think though, right? Wasn't it first -- first degree murder and then --

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: -- it got dropped?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And what did it get dropped to, that's what she's --?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Manslaughter.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Manslaughter.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, manslaughter, yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was his -- his wife hurt as well? He was trying to stab her I thought you said, right?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.

COREEN AHNASSAY: He was protecting his wife and -- Arthur's wife. They were friends.

KENNETH TECOMBA: (indiscernible) that woman Roberta.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Roberta, that's her best friend.
One of her best friends.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, when you say her though, you
mean Olivia was protecting Roberta?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, yeah. And that's why --
MICHELLE MACISAAC: You said him though.
COREEN AHNASSAY: -- Arthur --
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Stabbed Olivia.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Olivia.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And was Roberta hurt?
KENNETH TECOMBA: No.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did she get stabbed? No? Okay.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Because she -- she took off.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She -- she's tried (indiscernible).
To stop Arthur to -- to fight his wife, and she's
protecting Roberta. Cause she's always
protecting people that's why she wants to be like
-- terrible people, stuff like that
and --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm thinking --
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, she's protecting her best
friend.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm thinking for the manslaughter
was it -- was there a trial? There was a full --
like did people speak, like did Roberta come and
tell the judge what happened?
KENNETH TECOMBA: No, nobody --
COREEN AHNASSAY: Nobody showed up.
KENNETH TECOMBA: -- ever came there.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, it was probably a guilty
plea. Did he -- did he admit that he did this?
KENNETH TECOMBA: No, he's not guilty.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Hm?
KENNETH TECOMBA: He pleaded not guilty.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Of -- of murder?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah, but nobody showed up for
court.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Nobody, even his wife didn't show
up.
KENNETH TECOMBA: He threatened the family. The
family started threatening those --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, for him to go to jail for
three years, he needs to have been found guilty
of something.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Mm-hm.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Which probably meant he admitted
it.
KENNETH TECOMBA: The plea bargain.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right. So, the plea --
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: The plea that comes out of it --
KENNETH TECOMBA: Even though there's nobody --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- is a guilty plea.
KENNETH TECOMBA: -- nobody showed up, he was going
nobody showed he still gets three years. That's
the deal, so.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so, they -- you say nobody
showed up, nobody showed up where?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Court.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But on what day? For what day?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Witness.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: As witnesses.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I see.
KENNETH TECOMBA: I think it was December.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, the main witness would have
been Roberta. So, Roberta didn't show up?
COREEN AHNASSAY: No.
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: And for my family, [Granddaughter 1]
-- he can't go near us.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Maybe 100 feet, he can't go near.
The victim service protecting us not to him not
to go near us.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so, do you feel the same
way about victim services that you do Michelle,
that they're helping? Or are there things they
could do more?
COREEN AHNASSAY: From Saskatchewan -- it's in our
letter (indiscernible)
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah, Saskatchewan.
COREEN AHNASSAY: I'll get the letter every time where
he is and where he goes then I have to know where
he is. That way he won't go near me.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Or I don't go near him.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: I have a question.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Cause he -- he might do something to
us --
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: -- or like that, that's why I get
letters every --
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: -- every time he goes to court or weekend pass or stuff.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I have to know, I like to know where he's going.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: And I get the letter.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, has [Child 1] ever seen him after? No.

KENNETH TECOMBA: No.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: And those other witnesses that were part of that before, do you remember who they were? Who were supposed to show up for court?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Roberta and (indiscernible).

MICHELLE MACISAAC: There was a couple other witnesses, right?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Michelle's one.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Michelle -- Michelle, and Roberta, Michelle got -- she died too.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: But Michelle -- my sister's daughter got --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is -- is Michelle your sister's daughter?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Michelle she died alcohol substance.

Her die of the --

KENNETH TECOMBA: She --

COREEN AHNASSAY: -- liver cirrhosis she died with it.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm.

COREEN AHNASSAY: So, she never went to court. And Roberta's still around High Level. But she never went to court to tell the truth about my daughter. Nobody went to court.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm. Nobody showed up.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: As far as you know, the only people that were in the house at the time were Roberta, your daughter and Arthur.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Michelle.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And Michelle was there too? You think? Yeah? Okay. But she was dead, so she couldn't go.

Okay, so, so you've talked about some people and some you haven't mentioned. Did -- was there any issue about how she was looked after, how Olivia was looked after after she was hurt, like was she taken by ambulance to a hospital or what happened, or do you know?
COREEN AHNASSAY: After she hurts?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: After she got stabbed. How did she get to the hospital?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Oh, somebody call 9-1-1 and the police and then the ambulance took her to hospital.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And --
COREEN AHNASSAY: And in hospital she died.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right. And was the hospital --
COREEN AHNASSAY: She couldn't make it.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- at High Level?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, High Level Hospital.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Is that a long drive from Bushe to High Level?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Four miles.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Four miles?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Four, three miles.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: It's close.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, it was very close. Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, right there. Four miles.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, --
COREEN AHNASSAY: Then Arthur took off and they found him tower up the -- the internet towers like that kind.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Up there the cops found him.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, my goodness. Way up there? Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah, he took off.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Wow.
COREEN AHNASSAY: So, at that time the cops took him away.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm. And then so, --
COREEN AHNASSAY: But my mom -- my daughter she didn't make -- made it. She stopped. She's dead.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. Right. Did the police speak to you?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did you ever speak to the police that were involved in investigating the homicide?
COREEN AHNASSAY: No, I didn't do anything.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: No, but did -- did --
COREEN AHNASSAY: Nobody tells me to go to court or nothing.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Did the police ever explain to you what happened?
COREEN AHNASSAY: No.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And were you still living in Chateh at that time?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Victim services, were they at High Level or some other place?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Victim services -- that -- they're in Rainbow Victim Service.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Rainbow?
COREEN AHNASSAY: They -- they come to Assumption police office victim service.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And what sort of things did they do that you found were helpful? The Rainbow Victim Services?
COREEN AHNASSAY: They -- they contact me that victim service.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And when they contacted you, what -- what did they have to tell you or what were they asking you?
COREEN AHNASSAY: About Olivia and that guy.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Not to go and that near families or even [Granddaughter 1] -- [Granddaughter 1] with -- live with his dad. And I told victim service that Arthur -- that I don't want Arthur to go near [Granddaughter 1].
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right.
COREEN AHNASSAY: And he lives with his dad there. And my family and me, victim service, they protect us.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So, did you find them helpful?
COREEN AHNASSAY: Huh?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was -- when they were with you and -- and told you things, or when you asked them questions --
COREEN AHNASSAY: After what happened and --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- did you find that was helpful, was it good --
COREEN AHNASSAY: After Arthur went to court --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So that was after.
COREEN AHNASSAY: -- and went to jail, after that they contact me.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right.
COREEN AHNASSAY: First one.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did anyone contact you, you know, from the time that Olivia had been killed to when
it went to the trial? Did anyone, any police or 
victim services contact you?
COREEN AHNASSAY: No.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: No.
COREEN AHNASSAY: I just only got -- got the letter so 
they and they come to see me at the house, fill 
out those papers not to go near me and -- and 
they told me where Arthur goes or where he -- he 
comes, I have to know.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: And so, I told them to -- to let me 
know where is he's going. So, I get the letter 
from Saskatchewan, his trial or his court or 
where he lives and where he goes. I have to 
know.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, back to our consent issue, if 
-- if Arthur heard what you have told us today, 
would -- do you think that that would be a 
problem for you? No?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Nope.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And Michelle while you 
were out of the room, Arthur has a brother named 
Westly and [Granddaughter 1], who is the daughter 
of Olivia, is a product of their relationship. 
So, Westly and Olivia came together and -- and 
[Granddaughter 1] was born. So, the -- Arthur is 
[Granddaughter 1]'s uncle -- 
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Uncle.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- and Olivia's brother-in-law.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, that's the relationship. 
Okay, so, now you made comment Kenneth, and I -- 
I just want to make sure that I understand, 
because you said about it was Dene man, et cetera 
and you were talking about his penalty, like 
or -- 
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- that the sentence that he 
received of three years for manslaughter. And 
so, do -- do you or do your Coreen have any 
concerns or thoughts about the fact that he 
received three years in jail?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Well it's like you know it's unfair 
to -- to me. Like, as I said, if it was a white 
-- white people, he would get automatically 25 
years and no chance of parole and stuff like 
that. The -- to think Gallant -- Gallant people
Coreen Ahnassay & Kenneth Tecomba
(Olivia Kay Ahnassay)

spread the message around not -- tell -- telling
people not to go to court. That's what happened.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: You said before that the witnesses
were too scared to go to court. So, how would
you know that? Did someone tell you? Or is it
just how you know, like did someone say?

KENNETH TECOMBA: We hear his people --

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Were -- as people being threatened
like how do you know that?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Like he -- well words get around.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Words get around.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah. And I believe you. I just,
I think it's important that you let her know what
you know or if you're still scared to say or? I
don't know.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, I hear -- hear you have a
situation and I -- I just want to make sure it's
correct from what you've heard. First of all,
did you ever go to court yourself? Did you watch
any of the court proceedings?

KENNETH TECOMBA: No.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did you go to High Level? Okay.

COREEN AHNASSAY: I'm always angered to him. Towards
to him. Why the innocent person got killed?
Innocent person. She never done anything. She
never like fight people. She's a loving person.
She cares about people.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You're right, it's very wrong.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Why?

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's very wrong. How --

COREEN AHNASSAY: And I'm so --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What have you heard about what
happened?

COREEN AHNASSAY: -- mad. Mad at him, towards him. I
just don't like him to see him. I just don't
like it.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right.

COREEN AHNASSAY: What has she done to my daughter.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, you heard that --

COREEN AHNASSAY: And this is --

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: -- your daughter was killed
because she was protecting her friend Roberta.
And she was protecting her friend from Arthur,
right? And Arthur had a knife? Is that right?

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you know anything -- what --
what have people told you about why Arthur may
have been trying to stab his wife, like what was going on?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Those two they drink, they always scratch each other. So, [Child 1], I mean Olivia is at the wrong place at the wrong time.
MICHICELLE MACISAAC: Mm-hm.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Sorry? Oliva what?
MICHICELLE MACISAAC: Was that the wrong place at the wrong time.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay. Okay. Now, was Olivia -- was she drinking alcohol at that time in her life?
KENNETH TECOMBA: Yeah, yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She likes partying and stuff like that. But she never get fight or -- it's just enjoy herself drinking.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: But she never alcoholic when just only with these friends.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Was these best buddies or they were her -- her to live at. They used to drink all New Year's Day. One day only.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She never drink that much.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She drinks just with these friends all the time. Not often, just sometimes.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Mm-hm. Did the -- anyone from probation contact you and ask you for a victim impact statement so that when he was sentenced they heard what Olivia's mother felt about the fact that she was gone? Did that ever happen? Did you -- did you speak to the judge either by a statement or any other way, a recording so that the judge knew how it hurt -- how much it hurt you that Olivia was gone?
COREEN AHNASSAY: I don't know.
KENNETH TECOMBA: No --
COREEN AHNASSAY: I don't think so.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Now, now in Canadian law, first degree murder actually requires proof that a person thought about it and planned it and it's actually hard to prove that because it's often just in the mind of a person.
And -- and also if somebody is -- is quite drunk, the -- a murder charge can actually be
reduced to manslaughter just cause somebody is so drunk. I don't know the situation here, so I don't know if that would apply.

Sometimes when you know when people are fighting and a -- and a death results, it's often that someone would be charged with second degree murder if they actually meant to kill somebody. But if it's accidental, like you know, pushing somebody and then they fell down and then they happen to fall on a gate that -- that stabbed them, then that could be like a manslaughter.

And so, there's many, many -- it's all called homicide, but there's many different types of homicide and it usually depends on what's in the -- the mind of the person. Cause you could have -- you could have someone driving down the street, du, du, du, du, du, du and then they look down on their cell phone and they -- when they look up they realize they've knocked somebody over and they didn't know. And so that would be like manslaughter.

On the other hand, you have someone driving down the street and they're like rrrrrrr I want to kill somebody, there he is, I remember what he did at me at the bar. Grrrr I'm going to go kill him. And that's actually murder, like first degree murder, because they intended to do it and they go -- and you can see the whole difference was what was in their mind.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Right.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Because in both cases, the -- you know whether the car hit the person in that scene or hit the person in that scene, it's the same type of act of the car being driven by somebody, hits a person and they die.

But the important thing is what was in their mind. And the police look to the evidence about how fast the car was going, what direction it was, if it was deviating from the route, road, did it make sense that -- if he tells a story, well I was on my cell phone and the cell phone was there. So, that's how the -- the police and the judge figure out which one. It's complicated.

And then the other thing that we have is we've got way too many Indigenous people in our jails. Way too many. When you think about the percentage of Indigenous people there are in
Canada, and the people that are in jail, it's just what we call disproportionate, right? There's way too many to justify. And -- and it's believed that's because of racism. And a lack of -- of police and the courts understanding the -- the life of Indigenous people.

So, there's actually a -- a section in our -- our Code, I've got a Criminal Code upstairs, but I didn't bring it with me, but if you want to see it I'll show you.

It's -- it's in the section of the Code and the Code are basically the rules that the police and the courts must look to when somebody's in trouble to determine whether or not they should get in trouble for it. Like they should be sentenced to something or be found guilty for something and then sentenced.

And -- and because there are way too many Indigenous people in our jails, there's a -- a section right -- written there, right there, so if I were a judge, I'd have to read this. And it says to me putting somebody in jail is the very last thing I should do if I have an option. And this is particularly true for aboriginal people.

And the reason why that's in there is to remind people, think, be self-aware, are you making decisions because you're biased? Are you racist? Are you treating this man more harshly because he is a First Nations person? So, that's right in our Code.

And in order to help judges there is a process, it's called the Gladue Report, where there's a report that is written about a person's history as a First Nations person. And the judge must have that and read it and that helps him or her decide whether the fact that they are -- are an aboriginal person, should -- how that should be taken into consideration to make sure that they're dealt with fairly.

So, it's even more complicated. So, I just wanted to tell you that because one thing that I think that is really important here in your life and in the lives of all Canadians, all people, sometimes we are very happy based on information that is not true. And sometimes we're very sad and actually suffer based on information that is not true.
So, an important part of the work of the inquiry is to try and encourage people to understand how things happened and what worked and get the true story, so that you can really decide that you're -- if you're going to be suffering you make sure that you're suffering for the right reason. That you actually have the right story.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Mm-hm.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Now in your case, there's no doubt at all that you've lost a beautiful young daughter way before the time she should have left. And it was the result -- it was -- there's a person who is responsible.

But there might be a whole bunch of more people responsible systemically who have contributed to this and this is why the commissioners are going to be very, very happy for the fact that even though you were -- were abused by your mom and you don't like to speak, you came, and you honoured us today with your story. And I hope you feel really, really good about that, because that is the truth. It is important that you've told your story. And we're very grateful.

And Michelle and lovely women like her and Kenneth, I -- I trust that they will continue to help you understand that you can still live a good life. Even though you have this awful suffering about your -- the loss of your daughter. Starting perhaps with your other beautiful grandchildren. When you look in their eyes, you're reminded of the good -- good life, the good things that recall of Olivia.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.

KENNETH TECOMBA: Thank you.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'd love to buy you lunch, can I do that?

KENNETH TECOMBA: Sure.

MICHELLE MACISAAC: Oh, awesome.

WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You must be ready for lunch? But are you finished, because we can come back if you've got more questions or there's more you want to say?

KENNETH TECOMBA: It's up to you guys.

COREEN AHNASSAY: Well it's up to you guys if you think.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: I -- I do want to mention something.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, [Child 1] would like to talk, correct? But she has a baby.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, sometime could you guys schedule something while she -- she lives 20 or 30 kilometres -- I think she's in town at the church now, right?
COREEN AHNASSAY: She'll come.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: You can keep the baby outside if you can schedule a little time to finish up sometime in the next day or two to hear her side of her sister?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, yes.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She knows a lot of more information.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Okay. She has more details and information.
COREEN AHNASSAY: They were always together.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Always together.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: So, I think it's important and I -- I think it's --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, when would she be available?
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Soon as she calls her and what works for you, you guys can make that arrangement.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: She's in town now I think. She's in Grande Prairie now, right?
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.
COREEN AHNASSAY: She's --
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: If you're -- if you're complete and even if you're not, we can open this up again and you can talk more.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Yeah.
WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But -- but let's just turn the recorders off while we do some logistics, okay.
So, it's -- look at the time -- it's five minutes after 12:00. Now for -- for a lady who doesn't talk. My goodness you did a wonderful job, high five.
COREEN AHNASSAY: Yeah.
MICHELLE MACISAAC: Special honour to Olivia.

(STatement concluded)
Statement – Public

Coreen Ahnassay & Kenneth Tecomba
(Olivia Kay Ahnassay)

I hereby certify that this is a true and accurate transcript of these proceedings recorded on sound recording apparatus, transcribed to the best of my skill and ability in accordance with applicable standards.

D. Work
Court Transcriber