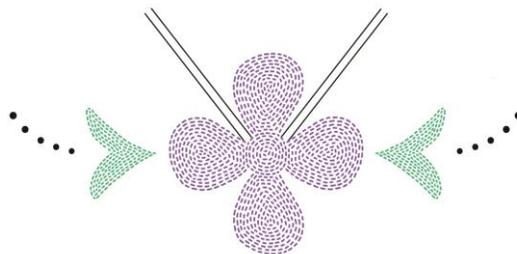


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Hopedale, Labrador**



PUBLIC

Wednesday August 8, 2018

Statement - Volume 462

**Edmund Saunders,
In relation to Loretta Saunders**

**Statement gathered by Violet Ford,
Commission Counsel**

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NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Hopedale, Labrador

1

2

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 12:10

3

p.m

4

MS. VIOLET FORD: I've just got to make sure
all this is being recorded. Okay. We are now on the
record.

7

MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS: M'hm.

8

MS. VIOLET FORD: It is -- my name is
Violet Ford. I am one of the statement-takers here. We
are in Hopedale, Labrador. The date is August 8, 2018, and
the time is 12:10 p.m. So you are here to tell a story.

11

12

MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS: Yes.

13

MS. VIOLET FORD: And to tell your truth.

14

MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS: M'hm.

15

MS. VIOLET FORD: Please proceed --

16

MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS: I am --

17

MS. VIOLET FORD: -- by identifying yourself
again and then starting --

18

19

MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS: Where would you like
me to start? Like --

20

21

MS. VIOLET FORD: Just identify yourself
again and tell us what your --

22

23

MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS: My name is Edmund
Daniel Samuel Saunders. I was born in [birthdate], in the
town of Hopedale, Labrador. I -- I was raised in Goose Bay

24

25

1 amongst a mainly white community. Starting right from an
2 early age, I'll be honest with you, I -- I lived on the
3 base in Goose Bay as a young child, and I know for a fact
4 that a lot of people in my culture, in my position, an
5 Inuit man, use a lot of excuses for what they do to women.
6 I was molested when I was a kid. I was beaten when I was a
7 kid. You know, I was bullied when I was a kid. You know
8 what, all three things happened to Edmund when he was a
9 young fellow on the base in Goose Bay. On a daily basis
10 for nearly two years, I was molested by two different guys,
11 one in the daytime, one in the nighttime. I never killed
12 no one. I never -- you know, it never turned me to, you
13 know, harmful things except for towards women. I was
14 really messed up. Two guys, 5 years old, 6 years old, 7
15 years ago old, two guys doing this to you almost on a daily
16 basis. By the time I was 14, I didn't know if I liked men
17 or boys or girls or women, right, because I was so messed
18 up. I never acted on any weird feelings because I knew it
19 wasn't something that I done.

20 Now, as an Inuit person growing up on the
21 base in Goose Bay and in the valley in Goose Bay, I
22 was -- there wasn't very many families in the '80s that
23 were Inuit. I went through every day on a daily basis of
24 recess time, having to be ganged up on by people, being
25 called a dirty skimo (phonetic), a hockey puck, you know,

1 flathead, you know, no teeth, you know, tundra monkey,
2 everything. You know, it -- it turned me into a -- into
3 a -- a person that stayed to myself, really quiet, and I
4 took it all in on my family, my sisters, my mother, my
5 father, my brothers. I beat the shit out of all of them
6 all the time. I did. I'll be honest, and that's what it
7 done to me. Most of my violence before I moved out of my
8 parents' house was towards my family and towards my
9 sisters. It took up until three years ago to realize that
10 the first person I ever hit wasn't my ex-wife. It was my
11 sisters, the first woman -- the first women I ever hit. I
12 was violent in my younger days towards women. It took me a
13 long time to realize that.

14 Now, coming to this, I'm -- I'm -- went
15 through a bad, you know, marriage. I really loved the
16 woman. I still love the woman to this day. I don't care
17 who hears of it. She was my dream woman, you know, and I
18 ruined that by beating her up. I beat her up on a -- on a
19 jealousy basis, on any-reason basis. We got in an
20 argument, it was a smack to the face, you know, because
21 that's how I controlled people. I controlled people with
22 fear because I was the one in fear while I was being
23 molested. I was the one in fear while I was being bullied.
24 I was the one in fear while I was being ganged up on by
25 people.

1 By the time I was 15, I beat my dad up for
2 the first time, and I realized if I could beat a man up,
3 these guys at school, they're not going to bother me no
4 more. Then I became the bully. Then I became a hurtful
5 person, a really hurtful person. You know, I didn't see no
6 wrong in it because I got my way out of it. I controlled
7 people with fear.

8 You know, at 15, when they found out
9 that -- what kind of person I was, you know, the local
10 dealers and the local hard cases, they realized, this guy
11 can be used as a tool. So they pointed me in the direction
12 of people that owed them money with a baseball bat and with
13 whatever else they wanted me to do, and I was only too
14 happy to do it.

15 You know, that was my past. I -- I don't
16 mind sharing it. Maybe I should pay for my past. I've
17 done so many things in my past that, you know, maybe I
18 should pay for them, but when you become the bullied and
19 the hurt and -- and the one that was scared all the time to
20 realizing I do have a little bit of power, you know, I can
21 hurt other people, I can make other people scared, it don't
22 take long for you to become an animal. I was an animal
23 from the time I was 17 till the time I was 26. I was a bad
24 animal. You know, I was in -- involved with anything I
25 could get involved with when it came to organized crime

1 because they were my protection. The first people that
2 ever took me under their wing when I was getting beat up
3 and called a dirty skimo and -- and -- and stuff like that
4 there was the hard cases. Come here, Edmund. You don't
5 need to be picked on like that. You tell them you're with
6 us now. What do you want me to do? Okay, you go do this
7 now, and I'd do it because that's my protection, the little
8 Inuit boy that had no protection. These guys take you
9 under their wings, they teach you the way, right?

10 Up until I was 26 years old -- I'll be
11 honest with you, I got tattoos all over my body. I wanted
12 to be a biker, you know, and I went to St. John's. There
13 was no such thing as bikers in St. John's, so I got in with
14 the organized crime I could get into with out there, you
15 know, and after I started having my divorce with my wife, I
16 just -- I was going to Alberta. I gets put on a little
17 piece of paper, you talk to this guy when you go to
18 Alberta, okay?

19 So when I get to Alberta, they already heard
20 about me. This guy was good with a baseball bat. He's
21 good at making people scared. He's good at making people
22 pay. Okay? So that's what Edmund did in Alberta for a
23 full year. He worked like a dog, 12, 14 hours a day, and
24 in the nightttime, he went around collecting, and I turned
25 into a real -- a real monster, a real animal. I didn't

1 have no care anymore because I was going through a divorce
2 with the woman that I really love. You know, I didn't have
3 nothing left to lose anymore. I already lost her. I lost
4 my kids, you know, my two beautiful children that was at
5 5 years old and 2 years old at the time. You know, I lost
6 all that because of my -- because of in here, the anger
7 that I carried.

8 Now, I left Alberta because I stomped a
9 man's head into the ground. I stomped his head into the
10 ground, and for two weeks, the police looked for me for
11 attempted murder, you know, and I'll be honest with you, I
12 had a close friend out there. He was -- he was from Poland
13 originally, and he took the rap for me. They deported him
14 back to Poland. I jumped on a bus, and I came back to
15 Labrador.

16 I was in Goose Bay for a few weeks when I
17 heard my -- my cousin Tina here in Hopedale had committed
18 suicide, which is -- in our thing, that's rampant amongst
19 the Inuit here in -- in Labrador, northern Labrador, and
20 it's another thing that touches my heart deeply is the
21 suicide. I came down for my cousin Tina. Within six
22 weeks, I had five cousins gone with suicide. Five of them.

23 Now, I'm going to tell you, this is where
24 I'm going to start. When I met my -- my wife, present
25 wife, I was still a dog. I was still an animal, but I was

1 a hurting animal, and I was looking for someone to fucking
2 love me. I beat her all the time, even, oh, she loved me.
3 You know, she stuck through the real hard times with me,
4 and thanks to friends like Bev and -- and my deceased best
5 friend Mark (phonetic), I learned how to be a man. I
6 learned it's not right to hit women. I learned it's not
7 right to put them down, and I know it's not right to
8 fucking belittle them so much to the point where they'll
9 run away anywhere, and they'll put themselves in any
10 position just to get away from it, and I was one of those
11 men, and I can guarantee you I was one of those worst men
12 here in Labrador. There's not many Inuit men in our
13 communities can say they were -- walked a life like I did,
14 you know.

15 I met my -- my wife, and -- for the first
16 four or five years, it was a real struggle. I couldn't get
17 rid of that violence. I couldn't, and we ended up adopting
18 her niece. Beautiful little girl. She's almost 15 now,
19 and the first time I beat my wife after we got that little
20 girl, I couldn't change for my wife, but when my wife's
21 supervisor from work come up and seen me, and she said,
22 Edmund, you got a choice to make today. It's either
23 [Daughter 1] or the booze and the violence. I picked
24 [Daughter 1]. That's the only person on the face of the
25 planet that gave me the strength to change. I lost my two

1 real kids. I wasn't losing her, not for this.

2 I started working really hard on myself. I
3 gave up the drinking. That was the first step, because
4 when I'm drunk, I'm an animal. I -- I got no -- no filter,
5 and, you know, when it was time for me to do something ugly
6 in my younger days, I'd sit down with a flask of liquor,
7 I'd chug that flask of liquor, I'd wait for my belly to get
8 warm, I'd wait for the fear to go away, I'd pick up my
9 baseball bat, and I'd go do what had to be done. I -- I
10 became used to -- the fact that when I drank my alcohol, it
11 was time to be violent. It's time to be violent. That's
12 what gave me the strength to be violent.

13 We worked really hard with [Daughter 1], to
14 keep [Daughter 1] and to keep our relationship, and we gave
15 up the alcohol, and we -- I gave up a certain way of life.
16 I was a big-time drug dealer. I didn't fear -- I didn't
17 have no -- I never hurt once for money in my life until I
18 decided that -- well, actually, I'm telling you lies there
19 because when my sister got killed for \$400, that's what
20 made me stop dealing the dope. You know. \$400 for her
21 life, and here I am, I'm taking advantage of this whole
22 town and their addictions. There's kids out here that
23 weren't eating. You know, there's kids out here that
24 didn't have diapers because of me. There's kids here that
25 their fucking parents was out all hours of the night

1 leaving them alone because of me, and that's the kind of
2 things that after my sister died that I started realizing.

3 You know, man, it's been nine years. I'll
4 be honest. It's been nine years since I would admit to
5 what I called beating my wife. I smacked her with an open
6 hand before I left three years ago. I was in a real bad
7 place. I came home from looking for my sister. I barred
8 myself in the shed. If I wasn't in the shed smoking dope,
9 I was in the house, you know, crying or being angry, and I
10 noticed that everyone that I -- I cared about over them two
11 years, they all started to distance themselves from me
12 because -- you know, I'll be honest with you. My old ways
13 started to come back. I started making phone calls
14 outside, where can I -- how can I get at these people?
15 Tell me how I can get at these people. What have I got to
16 do to get at these people? I'll trade you a life for a
17 life. If someone owes you money and you wants me to take
18 their life and you can get at them fuckers, I'll come out
19 and I'll kill them for you if you can get them fuckers.
20 That's how bad I was in my -- in my grief and in my trauma,
21 in my anger, you know? I started trying to revert back to
22 my old life, you know.

23 So I knew it was time. It was time for me
24 to get away from my wife when I smacked her across the
25 face. She -- you know, we were arguing one day, and she

1 said, just hit me, hit me so I can call the cops, and I
2 did. I smacked her across the face. I didn't beat her up,
3 but I smacked her across the face so she could call the
4 cops on me. I knew I needed help. I didn't know how to
5 get the help. There's no help for us in Labrador. I
6 tried. I tried. There's not a whole lot of help for us in
7 Labrador as Inuit people. I had to go to the First Nations
8 to get to help with my trauma. You know, I had to go
9 through a totally different race of people to get help with
10 my trauma, and...

11 Once I got help for my trauma, I started to
12 get back to my old self. I know I don't have no fear of
13 striking my wife. I don't have no fear of hurting anyone.
14 I do still get upset sometimes, but now I know I'm dealing
15 with things in a healthy way again. I -- I'm not letting
16 my trauma run my life anymore.

17 I don't think I would be here today if I
18 didn't have to come down here for the funeral for my cousin
19 Tina. The lifestyle that I was living, I would either be
20 in jail for a very long time, or I would have got myself
21 killed, so coming here to Hope was probably one of the best
22 things that ever happened to me in my life. It got me away
23 from a lifestyle that I -- I shouldn't have been in
24 anymore.

25 Now, it even still follows me to this day,

1 you know, my lifestyle. I left here to go to Toronto when
2 my sister Delilah got sick in December, and I wasn't even
3 in the town, I was getting messages from people
4 downtown: When you get here, you drop by our place. I'll
5 have someone waiting for you at the bus stop. And they
6 did. They had people waiting for me at the bus stop:
7 Edmund, we know you're here for a short period of time, can
8 you do some things for us, Steady Eddie? Because that's
9 what they called me in Alberta. If something was needed to
10 be done and they asked me, they knew it would be done. I
11 told them, listen here, I walked away from that lifestyle
12 10 years ago, 12 years ago when I met my wife. I said, I
13 never, ever benefitted from it, only to hurt people. I
14 said, I got a family of my own now, and I don't want people
15 like you calling for me and for people in my family. I
16 said, I know what you guys are, and I don't play that game
17 anymore, so I -- you know, I -- my lifestyle when I lived
18 in the past still do come to haunt me sometimes, right?

19 Now, when it comes to me being violent
20 against women, I watched it. It's a learned -- it's a
21 learned behavior a lot of times. I watched my mother get
22 beat up. I watched my aunts and -- aunts get beat up. I
23 watched my sister get beat to the point where she lost her
24 two beautiful kids, adopted out. You know, I -- I went
25 into her apartment, and she was living here at the time. I

1 went into her apartment. I seen the trail of blood up from
2 the goddamn fucking stove all the way into the fucking
3 room, a trail of blood, and when I went into the room, I
4 opened up that door, and I seen my sister laying on her
5 bed, and the whole bed is covered in blood, and she's laid
6 back on. Let me see your face. No. Let me see your face.
7 No. I holler and I holler over. When I seen her face, I
8 threwed up. There was no face left, just the point of a
9 nose sticking out and two fucking eyelids swelled shut with
10 big fucking cuts across them. You're telling me that's
11 acceptable in our fucking culture?

12 And that's what it is. We get slaps on the
13 wrist for doing that to women, and it's not right. I see
14 it over and over and over, the same people hurting women
15 over and over and over, and they get a month in jail, or
16 they get 30 days in jail, 45 days in jail. No, it's time
17 to start making men like me pay for the frigging things we
18 do to women like that. When a woman like that gets struck,
19 it's time for the cops to come and take us. It's time for
20 us to be put in jail. It's time for us to stand in front
21 of a judge, and it's time for the judge not to slap us on
22 the wrists anymore but say, okay, you're not the Inuit of a
23 hundred years ago, you can serve time now because you won't
24 go insane in there. Now you're going to go to jail, and
25 you're going to start paying for your crimes because we're

1 just like everybody else. We might be Inuit, we might be
2 Aboriginal, but we're still human beings, and we still
3 got -- we should still pay the same consequences as
4 everybody else when we beats up on the women.

5 I see it here so common. If you spent a
6 week here and you went out in the nighttime, you would see
7 it, too, and you would realize how normal it is here on the
8 coast of Labrador for a man to beat up his woman and get
9 away with it. You can see almost on a daily basis women
10 going around with scratched-up faces and -- and black eyes
11 and swelled-up lips and stuff, and instead of -- and me
12 siting with a bunch of guys, instead of the guys saying,
13 what a cunt, he went and beat her up again; no, it's, oh,
14 my, what did she do now? Ha, ha, ha. She got black eyes.
15 It's normalized. It's not normal. That's not normal to
16 hit a woman. I know that now, and -- and it's about time
17 that the men in our culture finally has to pay for what we
18 do to our women because as long as the men in our culture
19 do not pay for the things that we do to our women, the real
20 outside world is not going to pay no attention to us.
21 They're not going to pay no attention to us because why
22 should we do anything for a crowd of people, you know, that
23 are bawling about our women going through the cities and
24 other big towns and getting beat up by pimps and beat up by
25 this ones and that when their husbands and their boyfriends

1 are doing it at home, right? And they're not getting
2 punished. Why should we punish these people when they're
3 not getting punished?

4 I smacked my wife across the face three
5 years ago. I stood up in front of the judge, and I said,
6 you throw the book at me. I want to be an example to these
7 people. No, no, no, you went through trauma, you know, and
8 you went through this, blah, blah, blah, we'll give you a
9 year's probation. A year's probation? For striking a
10 woman across the face? No. My goodness, that's what you
11 gives to a young fellow for stealing a pedal bike. That's
12 not what you gives to a fucking 40-year-old man for
13 striking his woman across the face. Throw me in jail for a
14 year and put me through programing that I got no reason to
15 turn down. I can't turn it down. Then once you got us in
16 a place where we can't hide and run away from it, then you
17 tell us every day, it's unacceptable to hit women, it's
18 unacceptable to sexually assault children, it's
19 unacceptable to do this what we're doing. We're not
20 going -- we're not going to learn until we're made to
21 learn.

22 It's so common, and it's so normalized
23 around here that it's everyday living for a woman to get
24 theirselves beat up, and they're not -- you know, they don't
25 deserve it. You know, I've -- I've learned that there

1 isn't anything that you're going to disagree on that you
2 can't talk about, and we need to be taught stuff like this.
3 You know, we watched a cycle since -- since -- since we can
4 remember. My grandparents went through it, my parents went
5 through it, I went through it. My daughter's not going
6 through it. I can guarantee you, my daughter's not going
7 through it. I'm going to make the changes I need so that
8 she don't have to be, you know, beat up and stuff like
9 that.

10 Not only that, the sexual assaults in these
11 frigging places. We don't get paid for that either. We
12 don't go to jail for that, either, not proper. I see guys
13 here raping their sisters on more than one occasion, the
14 same sister, on more than one occasion, and going away for
15 jail for eight or nine months, and they after doing it to
16 her three or four or five times, and go to jail for eight
17 or nine months, raping their own blood. You know, rape in
18 itself, we should at least go to jail for federal time.

19 Rape in my mind, if -- if I went out
20 now -- I'm going to give you an example. Friday
21 night -- no, Sunday night, I had a message from one of my
22 niece's mothers: Hey, man, there's a guy down here, can
23 you come down and ask him to leave? I said, why, what's on
24 the go? It's getting pretty creepy, she said. I said,
25 what do you mean, it's getting pretty creepy? Well, he

1 keeps telling me, I want to do this to you, I want to do
2 that to you, and he keep trying to take advantage -- like,
3 trying to make advances on her, and she's saying, no.
4 Okay. A normal man, any normal man, a woman tells you no,
5 okay, that's -- that's -- that's a legitimate answer from a
6 woman. Can I kiss you? No. Okay. I'm not allowed to
7 kiss her, right?

8 But I had to leave my daughter at 2:30 in
9 the morning to go down to this house, and when I walked in
10 the house -- I used an excuse to go see him. Hey, man, you
11 got a draw (phonetic) I can buy? So I buy the draw off the
12 fucker just for an excuse to go down there. Next thing you
13 know, just me being there gave her the -- the courage to
14 start saying to him, you can't talk to me like that
15 anymore. You know, you can't be talking like that, it's
16 creepy. And this is how bold the men are. He -- you know
17 what he said? Shh. She said, don't shush me. He said,
18 shh, again to her. Shushing her, you know, like, as if
19 she's doing something wrong by trying to expose him. No.
20 What -- what -- if -- if I hadn't have been in a different
21 position where I know I wouldn't hurt my family, he would
22 have been laid out on the floor, and I would have dragged
23 him out of that house, but I had to sit there for almost
24 two hours until she finally talked him -- I said to him a
25 few times, man, buddy, she wants you to go. It's time for

1 you to go. I can't be here all night. I said, if I'm here
2 all night, next you know there'll be rumors around town
3 that I'm out fooling around on my wife. I said, it's time
4 for you to go now. He wouldn't leave.

5 So I'm getting to the point where, okay, do
6 I stay, and do I, you know, chance having people saying
7 that they seen my truck at this house all night, or do I
8 leave? So when I left, I went back up, I got a message
9 from her. He just pushed a chair out of the way and tried
10 to get on his knees in front of me. I'm locked in the
11 bathroom. That is what you call gross. There is no reason
12 in any culture for people to get away with stuff like that,
13 and it happens on a daily basis.

14 I'll give you another example of the
15 gross -- what goes on here. I got man in his 50s, almost
16 60s, okay? He -- he -- he's an older Inuit. He's damaged.
17 All the older Inuit are damaged here. He calls up my
18 house. Is [Daughter 1] or [Wife] there? And I'm
19 wondering, what the hell do you want my daughter for? I
20 gives the phone to [Wife]. Then I heard her a couple
21 minutes later, don't you ever fucking call here again like
22 that. Don't you ever call here like that again. She gets
23 off the phone. What's going on? He called up here, and he
24 said he wants a present from [Daughter 1]. What do you
25 think Edmund wants to do? Edmund wants to go and pound the

1 fucking face off of him, but Edmund will get more in
2 trouble for going and pounding his face in than him calling
3 up to my house asking for my daughter's underwear.

4 I know the same guy, a beautiful young woman
5 works here in town, she works here in town, and she loves
6 the town, and I -- and I -- and you don't ever hardly find
7 a person from outside that comes into our town and says
8 they loves it. The same goddamn bastard asked that person
9 for a ride, and when she was good enough to give him a
10 ride, he assaulted her, okay? Now, this is how gross it
11 is, so -- a person from outside coming into our downtown,
12 and a guy like that there sexually assaulting them, and
13 they're afraid to talk about it.

14 You want to know what's wrong with our
15 people? Our people -- what's wrong with our people?
16 What's wrong with our people is what the men get away with,
17 is exactly what the men get away with. We get away with
18 beating up the women. We get away with raping the women.
19 We get away with sexually assaulting the women. We get
20 away with frigging raping the kids and sexually assaulting
21 the kids. You got men in their 50s going out with 17- and
22 18-year-olds here. I even -- right now, I have a -- a [age
23 redacted] distributing pornographic pictures of [a female
24 child - identity redacted], okay? So tell me what's wrong
25 with our -- our culture?

1 The men need to be made to pay for what we
2 do. We don't pay for what we do. We get slaps on the
3 wrists. We get slaps on the wrist. That's it. That's
4 all. You look on our court docket. There's no such thing
5 has break-and-enter and theft and stealing a Ski-doo or
6 stuff like that in there on the court docket. It's all
7 sexual interference, sexual assault, assault, and
8 (indiscernible) shit like that, and when you look at it,
9 it's all men doing it on the women and children. We got to
10 start being made to pay. I don't care who hates me.
11 All -- all the Native men across Canada can hate me, but we
12 got to be start made to pay for what we do.

13 I've damaged many people in my lifetime, and
14 I know there's people still trying to get over the damage.
15 I never had to pay one bit for the damage that I caused. I
16 never. I never. There's people out there with their
17 lives, they're still not right in their head from what I
18 done to them. I'm -- and I'm living a normal life now? I
19 didn't have to pay for none of that. I got to be made to
20 pay for that. Men like me got to be made to pay. We got
21 to be made to pay. As long as we're not made to pay for
22 our crimes against our women and children, our women and
23 children are going to get up, and they're going to go to
24 the bigger communities, they're going to get away from it,
25 think they're getting away from it. Automatically, they

1 already suffered trauma. Automatically, they're going to
2 go towards a lifestyle that puts them in danger. I know
3 this. I see it. I see it all the time.

4 I seen one girl here, she got raped by her
5 own cousin. She's in my family. She got raped by her own
6 cousin. She ran away to a bigger city, and now it's no
7 trouble for her to go out and make a hundred dollars off of
8 doing something with a guy because that's how her -- that's
9 how she is portrayed to herself by everyone around her, by
10 the men around her. She was used for sex, you know?

11 It's time for the men to start paying for
12 what we done. It is time for the men to start paying for
13 what we done and what we're doing and what we continue to
14 do to our women and our children, especially the women and
15 the young girls, because the damage that starts at home
16 continues on when we leave home, whether it be to a bigger
17 community or to another household in the town. If we don't
18 be made to pay for what we're doing, there's never going to
19 be no change, and the outside world will never take us
20 seriously because they're going to just say, why are they
21 bawling for us to stop this when their men are home doing
22 exactly what they're trying to get to us to stop?

23 It's not going to change until we change
24 ourselves, and it's going to have to be in agreement to all
25 the Native groups that we're going to have to start making

1 our men pay because it don't matter where you go to in
2 Canada, not too many people is going to sit down like me, a
3 man, and say we've got to be made to pay for what we do's.
4 Not too many people got the nerve to see that, you know?

5 But I know -- I know from all my years of
6 experience, I seen -- I seen it happen to my sisters,
7 abusive relationships. I had one sister, like I said, her
8 face was beyond recognition. [*Five lines redacted -*
9 *personal information*].

10 You know, our men got to be made to pay.
11 That's my -- that's my message. We're going to have to
12 start paying for the crimes we commit against our women and
13 our children and our young women and our girls. We've got
14 to be made to pay for it. There's no other way around it.
15 I know people that have been in healthy relationships,
16 really healthy relationships, and now they're into
17 different relationships where they're fucking getting
18 abused, and never before would they ever put up with
19 getting abused, but it's so normalized that -- it -- it
20 gets accepted after a while. It's not normal. It's not
21 normal the stuff that goes on in this town. It's not.
22 There shouldn't be people coming in, working our
23 town -- beautiful souls here do a good job for our people
24 and have stuff happen to them, and not -- and people not
25 pay for it? Not pay for it a bit? No.

1 We need to start pressure in the government
2 and our own government and the legal system and stuff like
3 that and tell them. I've read -- I've read all
4 the -- like, back in the day, we couldn't be put in jail
5 because we go crazy, because we're a free-range people. We
6 walked the land. We -- we hunted the land. This is 2019
7 almost now. This is not 1784 anymore. We can pay for our
8 crimes now. I'm quite capable of spending two years in
9 jail if I got to. I won't go insane. We need to be paid
10 for what we do now. I'm not -- I'm not an Inuit man from
11 1784. I'm an Inuit man in 2019. We should be long past
12 this saying, oh, the white man did this to us, the white
13 man did that to us.

14 I was molested by two different fellows. I
15 had to get over the fact that I used that for making women
16 into a sexual object. That's what it did to me. To me,
17 all a woman was was a sexual object, someone -- a trophy,
18 you know? And -- and -- but now I can't look back, and
19 when I do look back, I say, well, I didn't do nothing
20 wrong. I was 5 and 6 and 7 years old. Them two fellows,
21 they were in their late teens and -- and early 20s. They
22 knew what they were doing. They did the wrong thing. I
23 can't go around, turning around and say, okay, I'm going to
24 beat Miss Bev up today because someone touched me when I
25 was 5 years old. That's not right. That's not right at

1 all, and it is an excuse. I hear it. I hear it in court:
2 Oh, I'm sorry I'm like this because I was abused when I was
3 a kid. You were abused when you were a kid. You're
4 abusing other people now. There's a difference. When you
5 were a kid, you were abused. Now that you're older, you
6 should think back to when you were the abused. Now you're
7 the abuser. You should have more sense.

8 I would never touch a kid. I went through
9 at least 200 sexual assaults, and I know what that done to
10 me, and I know for a fact I would never touch a kid in any
11 way like that, and I know now that -- I've never, ever
12 sexually assaulted a woman. I've never. I've physically
13 assaulted them, I've verbally assaulted them, I've mentally
14 assaulted them, but there's men here that gets away with
15 sexually assaulting women over and over and over and over.

16 So when it comes to missing and murdered
17 Indigenous women and you want to know where some of the
18 problems are starting, we just start looking at home. We
19 don't running around the country pointing fingers at
20 everybody else until we start looking at ourselves. Once
21 we start looking at ourselves and we start making our
22 people punish -- our men and our boys punished for what
23 they do, then we can look to the outside world and say,
24 look, we punishes them, how come you're not punishing them,
25 right? Once we do that, we'll start being taken seriously.

1 Until we do that, we're not going to ever be taken
2 seriously because as a culture, we're looked at alcoholic,
3 women-beating people, as men. We are. And you want to
4 know? You hear people say, oh, man, that's -- I hate being
5 stereotyped as an alcoholic woman-beater. There's not many
6 men around here that can hold their up -- head up high and
7 say they never hit their women. There's not many. Not
8 many men around here that can hold their head up high and
9 say they have never, ever hit their woman.

10 You know? You got to start at home. We got
11 to be made to pay for what we do. You want to know where
12 the roots are? The roots are our young girls and our young
13 boys getting molested and not being answered to. I had 200
14 molestations by two fellows, and then the last of it was I
15 got raped in the ass by the last fellow, and I still has a
16 problem to take the bottom -- use number 2 today. I still
17 have trouble taking a shit today. I was 7 when that
18 happened. That's why when I sleep on my belly, I sleep
19 with my legs crossed and my hands on my crotch, because I
20 know what's coming in the nighttime when I was a kid.

21 As for, you know, solutions, I don't know
22 any solutions. I just know what I've done and what I've
23 done to change, you know, and I've -- I can actually hold
24 my head up, and I can actually be proud of myself now. I'm
25 not proud of my past, but I'm proud of what I accomplished

1 in the last ten years, and now, you know, sometimes I do
2 speak up about it, but it's so normalized that when you
3 speak up about it, people hate you. They hate you because
4 you're exposing something that's been normal for so long,
5 and like I said, the Inuit people are a type of people who
6 keep things quiet and hide it. Right? That's why he was
7 shushing her the other night, you know? Shh. No,
8 I'm -- you're not allowed to talk to me like that. Shh.
9 You know, so bold as that to shush them while they're
10 trying to speak up for themselves, and this is what the
11 problem is. The women don't have no voice, the women don't
12 have no power, and the women don't see no justice for
13 themselves when things happen to them.

14 So you wonder why our women are messed up
15 and they go away to these cities and big towns and stuff
16 and they're willing to sell themselves, and they're willing
17 to put themselves in the positions, you know, where they
18 may be hurt? If my husband is beating me at home and using
19 me like a sexual object at home, what's the difference of a
20 stranger doing it to me? At least they don't love me,
21 right? That's the way I look at it. You know? Who would
22 want to be hurt by someone you love? You'd rather go away,
23 run away and be hurt by someone that don't love you or you
24 don't love, you know?

25 And that's -- in my opinion -- and I've seen

1 it. I've seen it firsthand. You know, a lot of the times,
2 I've seen a lot of girls leave from -- leave from here. I
3 know where they're to. I seen other people that I know
4 from the coast leave and -- and where they're to, and I
5 know what they're doing now, and I know the life that these
6 women had, and a lot of them are putting themselves in some
7 fucking dangerous positions because of people like me.

8 I don't know what else you wants me to talk
9 about. That's the biggest message I had to say. I really
10 think it's time for our men to pay. I think if we're going
11 to sit down and we're going to judge the outside world, we
12 should start judging ourselves properly first. You know.

13 [One line redacted - personal information]
14 you know? Could that be any part of the reason,
15 like -- you know, I never hit none of the younger girls. I
16 hit [Sister 1], my -- my only full-blooded sister. I used
17 to hit her, and I'll tell you the truth, she used to hit me
18 back, too, pretty good, but there was no reason for Edmund
19 to hit [Sister 1] back then.

20 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** No.

21 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** There's no reason for
22 Edmund to hit any woman, no reason for Edmund to hit any
23 child. I've never hit a child. I wouldn't hit a child,
24 you know, but there's no reason for any Inuit man to be
25 beating on their -- on their spouse, on their girlfriend,

1 on their date, on their whatever. There's no reason for an
2 Inuit man to be going in and waiting for a woman to pass
3 out and then the poor old woman being molested as they're
4 passed out because that happens here all the time. It's
5 happened to [family member]? It's happened to [family
6 member] for fuck sakes, you know? But it happens so often,
7 so common, so common that it don't even be talked about
8 anymore.

9 I -- you know, I've been mentioning about
10 this guy that asked for my daughter's panties and stuff
11 around town and what he done to this person, and -- and I
12 don't use no names or anything, but I do use his name,
13 because I want him to feel ashamed. I want other people to
14 say to him, look here, buddy, Jesus Christ, I heard you
15 asked Edmund's daughter for her panties. You better not
16 ask Edmund's daughter for her panties no more because one
17 of these days, you're going to be end up down in the dump,
18 m'hm, and beat up and left there, because that's what's
19 going to happen to him if I hear him or any man, for that
20 fact, blatantly hurting kids or women around here anymore.
21 I'm just going to give them a fucking beating and go to
22 jail for it and be happy. I will because that's what it's
23 going to start having to take to stop people from doing
24 what they're doing. A 50-year-old man asking a 14-year-old
25 girl for -- for her underwear, you know? Same guy, you

1 know, on a regular basis he's -- exposing himself to young
2 girls and -- and that on the streets. My cousin, she was
3 12, and they charged the same fellow for exposing himself
4 to her and her friends. Did he go to jail? No, he never
5 went to jail, you know? Because it's time for him to go to
6 jail. It's time for him to do some federal time
7 where -- inside there, the inmates are going to say, what
8 are you in here? I touched a young girl. (Unreportable
9 sound) Oh, they'll learn their lesson after a while. If
10 they got to go to jail and they got to face the -- face the
11 consequences in jail for a while, they'll learn their
12 lesson. They will, because when you go to jail, a -- a
13 normal person on the outside world, I seen it, a *qallunaat*
14 man go to jail for raping a young girl. What do you think
15 happens to that guy when he goes in there? I know. I
16 been in jail. I've seen it. I've done it.

17 We need to be made to pay for what we done.
18 Men need to be made to pay for what we've done for the last
19 hundred years or more. You know, I can remember when I was
20 a kid going around here, women running away from their
21 husbands buck naked, running away from their husbands
22 getting beat up. You know, that's not normal, but to us,
23 it's normal. To us, it's normal. As a -- as a people in a
24 whole, violence and -- and weird sexual things and stuff
25 like that, that's normal. It's not normal. It's time for

1 us to change our view on what we're doing to each other,
2 you know? It's not normal for me to grope Bev, or it's not
3 normal for me to grope you without your consent, but it
4 happens here so much, it's not funny. It's not normal for
5 me to go and first time ever going on a date with [L.], get
6 mad at her and smack her in the face, but it happens here,
7 right? It's not normal for someone to pick up a knife and
8 threaten their wife and -- and stuff like that and keep
9 them barred in their house, but it happens here. You don't
10 see no big fuss made about it. It's not normal for -- like
11 I said, 19, 20-year-old guys to be dating 13- and
12 12-year-olds, but it happens here.

13 You know, everything that is not right with
14 our world, you -- you know, can be changed. It can be
15 changed by educating. When it comes to these older men
16 dating the younger kids, you start with the younger kids in
17 school, and you say, okay, now when you -- we live in a
18 small town, you know. The men don't have many to choose
19 from. The women don't have many to choose from, but that
20 don't give a man that's 20-something years old the right to
21 be asking you out when you're 13 or 14, right? It don't.

22 I was 18, I just turned 18, and I went to a
23 party in Goose Bay, and I kissed this girl, and she told me
24 she was 17. I didn't know any difference. I went home,
25 and the next day, the old man come into the bedroom. He

1 said, what are you doing kissing [G.]'s daughter? What do
2 you mean? You know it's her -- her father? Well, yes, I
3 know it was her father. She's only 13 years old. Bang,
4 bang, bang, bang, bang. (Unreportable sound). I got my
5 lesson taught to me. You don't ever go with a girl younger
6 than 18, buddy, and I learned my lesson because my dad
7 taught it to me. You don't ever take advantage of a young
8 girl. I didn't know she was that young. She lied to me.
9 She told me -- she was telling me she was a different age,
10 but that's the -- that's the -- that's what my father
11 instilled in me, you know, and I'm glad he did. He beat it
12 into me when I was younger, and I'm glad he did, you know,
13 because I know that if half the fellows around here took a
14 good smack from their old man and a good talking to, after
15 a while, they learn, but they don't -- it's normal. The
16 father is doing the same thing as the son and the grandson
17 is doing around here. The father is beating the
18 grandmother. The fucking father is beating the mother, and
19 the son watches it. Now he's beating his girlfriend up.
20 It's too normal. It's too normal.

21 We've got to make our people pay.
22 That's -- that's really the biggest thing that's been on my
23 heart. All our violence and all our sexual assaults and
24 stuff like that, it's too normalized for us. We don't pay
25 for it. We don't pay for it. I could go home. I

1 can -- like, if [Wife] was home now, I could go home, and I
2 could beat [Wife], and the cops would come get me. Yes.
3 They'd put me in jail for a couple hours. They'll let me
4 out. They'll give me a court date. When I go to court
5 now, you know, maybe I'll get a fucking month in jail now
6 because I smacked her and got charged for it before. I
7 should have been charged for the hundreds of times I beat
8 her. I should be going to jail for at least, you know, a
9 year to 15 months for beating her up if I smacked her
10 across the face last year or the year before or whenever it
11 was.

12 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

13 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** But we don't get made
14 to pay like that. I could go home and I could beat the
15 shit out of my daughter right now and the cops will come
16 and get me, and they'd lock me up for a couple hours, and
17 they -- you know, they'd process me, then they'd let me
18 out, and I'd go to court, and I'd say, I was molested when
19 I was a kid, and I was beat up, and I was bullied, and then
20 they'd take pity on me and say, okay, maybe we'll give you
21 a year probation and you do some counseling. That's not
22 teaching me nothing. Throw me in the jail where the dogs
23 is going to get me, because as soon as they finds out I
24 beat up my daughter or my molested my daughter or I beat up
25 my wife, I'm going to get beat up, and that's exactly what

1 I deserves, and we need to be made to be fearful of what
2 the consequences is if we do something. If you don't fear
3 the consequences, it's not going to stop. If you've got a
4 fear of the consequences, it's going to stop. It will
5 stop. If I think I've got to go to jail and I've got to
6 tell people I'm in here for beating up my
7 daughter -- because they're going to find out anyway. In
8 jail, they find out what you're in there for anyway, but if
9 I got to go in and I got to admit to them, what are you in
10 for? I beat the shit out of my daughter until she had two
11 black eyes and her lips was swollen. Next time they get
12 you in the shower, buddy, you're getting it, and you're
13 going to learn your lesson. You don't hit girls.

14 For some strange reason, criminals, they're
15 the hardest on each other. A molester or sexual assaulter
16 or rapist, they're going to get picked on by everybody
17 else. They're going to get picked on by everybody else.
18 That's why most of them are in protective custody. Someone
19 like myself, like I said -- I could go home and beat up my
20 wife and daughter, right now, not a word of a lie. I
21 could. I could go home right now and beat up my wife and
22 daughter. I'd go to jail, the cops come and get me, I'll
23 be in there for a couple hours, I'd be processed, I'd go to
24 court and I'll cry and say, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I've been
25 molested, I used to be beat up, I was bullied, and they'd

1 have pity on me. Don't have no more pity on us. Make us
2 start paying for what we done. Don't have no more pity on
3 us. Start making us pay for what we done. If I'm this way
4 because I got molested when I was a kid, okay, buddy, it's
5 time for you to start taking some counseling and deal with
6 that molestation, right, because it's not an excuse
7 anymore. Then when that's done, if they beat up their wife
8 and they come back and they say I was molested when I was a
9 kid; no, man, you already went to jail for this once. You
10 already went to jail for this twice. You already went to
11 jail for this three times. You already used this excuse
12 three times. You've already went through the counseling.
13 It's time for you to do two years now, and it's time for
14 you to do serious programming while you're in there.

15 It's time to make us pay, and it's time to
16 educate us that it's not -- in the real world, it's not
17 normal to hit a woman. It's not normal to rape a woman.
18 It's not normal to sexually assault a woman. It's not
19 normal to hurt a girl or a kid or a boy or whatever. It's
20 not. We got to be learned that it's not normal. It's not
21 normal behavior to do what we be's doing here in this town
22 on a weekly, daily basis. You could see it every day. I
23 could go right now to a household, I know right now, and I
24 open up the door, and they'll be putting each other right
25 down to the dirt. That's mental abuse. That's verbal

1 abuse, and for a woman to have to go through that on a
2 constant basis, day after day after day, what do you think
3 that does to them up there? It's not healthy.

4 Men like myself have to be made to pay for
5 what we do. We don't pay for what we do. We don't. You
6 could get your computer right now and look at the docket.
7 Look at our court docket for the next court circuit, and I
8 guarantee you nine out of ten things is either sexually
9 related or violence-related, and that -- that's -- that's
10 what touches my heart.

11 I know not every man can change, but every
12 man can be made aware that what they're doing is wrong.
13 You know, there's -- it's very rare that you're going to
14 get a man to stop beating up his woman and turn around and,
15 you know, try to turn it into a relationship where you're
16 trying to fulfill and make your woman happy all the time.
17 I try my best to keep [Wife] happy, which is not always
18 easy, you know, but I try my best to keep her happy. Now
19 when we get into an argument, I don't use fear on her
20 anymore: Shut the fuck up, or I'll give you a smack. I
21 don't say nothing like that to her no more because you're
22 not supposed to. That's not normal life. You don't
23 control people with fear. You don't -- you don't control
24 people with fear, and that's just basically what our men do
25 to our women. Shh, when she's trying to tell me what he

1 done. Shh, right in front of you. That's -- that's
2 how -- I don't know the proper word to use. That's how
3 bold, that's how -- I -- I don't have the word in my mouth
4 for it right now, for a guy to do that to a woman with
5 another guy sitting right there. She tried to tell him,
6 it's not nice for you to talk to me like that. Shh. Man,
7 that is so gross. I felt like beating the shit out of him
8 right there on the spot, but I knew if I was like that to
9 him, the cops would come and get me, and I'd be brought
10 down to the jailhouse, and I'd be processed, and I'd be
11 charged with assault, and they asked me what -- what did he
12 do to her? You know, and I -- I will tell them, but nine
13 chances out of ten when they went to that woman, she
14 wouldn't want to charge him because it's too shameful for
15 her to go to court, so the only one that will be going to
16 court by me doing that would have been me, right, because
17 it's so normalized.

18 I -- I couldn't get over -- it was like a
19 shock to me to hear him shush her when she was trying to
20 speak up for herself. You know? No wonder the women are
21 so damaged around here. There's no help for them. There's
22 no help for them. Like, on many occasions, I've went to
23 people that were suicidal because of what men are doing to
24 them. I'm only a sexual object in their eyes; the only
25 time men wants to talk to me is when they wants to have sex

1 with me, you know? And -- and that's gross. That's gross
2 too.

3 Like, I talk to people, and sometimes it's a
4 female people, and they found it strange because, you know,
5 I'm talking to them about constructive things. I'm not
6 saying, oh, you got a nice bum or, you know, stuff like
7 that. They're -- you know, they find it strange for a man
8 to talk to them and talk nice to them with -- with real
9 compliments, with real compliments, you know? Not, like,
10 oh, you're sexy and I want to take you into bed and all
11 this shit. You know? Like, oh, I seen that you're doing
12 this and this and this, I'm very proud to see that you guys
13 are doing this with your life and that, and -- and they get
14 surprised by that, you know, because most of the time, a
15 guy talks to you around here, it's either he's trying to
16 be -- talking to you in a sexual way or -- or a vulgar way,
17 or -- and I've had women tell me that, I like chatting to
18 you because you don't try to talk dirty to me, and stuff
19 like that, and my wife gets mad sometimes, but I'll show
20 her the messages: Here you go, babe, I'm not talking dirty
21 to them, I just feel in my heart that this is something I
22 want to talk to them about.

23 And I do that with young people with suicide
24 too. You know, if I see a guy or whatever on the Facebook,
25 fuck my life, I wish I wasn't here, I'll message him: Hey,

1 man, drop up to the shed for a bit, let's have a chat, you
2 know, because I know what it feels like to want -- want to
3 die. I know what it feels like to want to commit suicide.
4 I do, and it's not a very nice feeling, and it's scary not
5 to have someone to talk to. That's why I open myself up to
6 these people to talk to them.

7 And another reason, I think that all
8 our -- all our problems stem from home. You know, I've
9 heard -- when I was outside, I heard talking about the
10 missing and murdered men. Okay? I'll tell you what
11 happens with a lot of them, because I've lived it. I've
12 lived it. I've been there. I've done that. We get used
13 to -- in little towns like this here, you know, some people
14 wants to try to be a little drug dealer or whatever, so
15 they'll get a bit of weed, and they'll hire a guy on a
16 cell. This guy rips them off. There's no consequences.
17 Right? There's no consequences, because like myself, when
18 I was a drug dealer, you can't really go collect like how I
19 used to. You can't go to their house and say, here you go,
20 buddy, here's a baseball bat, what do you got to give me or
21 you're getting it, because the cops come to you, and you'll
22 be processed, and you'll go to jail. But, you know, the
23 thing is for me, I -- I just -- I hate who I was, I love
24 who I am now, and I'd like to see the violence stop towards
25 our women. I'd like to see the violence stop towards our

1 kids, the sexual assaults, the things that happened to me
2 and my sister. I didn't have it in me to tell on those two
3 guys when they were doing it to me, but when I finally
4 found out, I realized -- I found out they were doing it to
5 my sister too. Then I told -- I never, ever told anyone
6 that they did it to me. They were never, ever charged for
7 me. They were charged for my sister, and they went to jail
8 for my sister, and that's the only way I could do it,
9 because they were Inuit people, too, some of them, and when
10 you'd say, okay, I'll go and tell my mom on you, they're
11 not going to believe you. They're not going to believe
12 you. Right, and this is how they're controlled. They
13 know. They -- they -- these kind of people, they
14 preyed -- they -- they're predators, and -- and they prey
15 on the weak and the ones that they know are already
16 traumatized and damaged, and I know because I was one of
17 them.

18 What -- the easiest way to find a woman for
19 yourself to fool around on is finding one that's fighting
20 with their boyfriend or whatever and talk nice to them, and
21 sucker them in and drag them in, and -- and believe it or
22 not, in my 20s and that, I -- I did that quite often
23 because that's the easiest way to get a one-night fling for
24 yourself, right, where we used them. We know how to used
25 them. We're predators. Men like myself -- not anymore,

1 I'm proud to say, but men like myself in the Inuit culture,
2 we're predators, and we -- we know which ones to prey on.

3 There's women around here that's traumatized
4 over and over and over and over by all different men. All
5 the men knows what they're like, so they all do the same
6 thing to them. It's time to pay for that. I don't know
7 these women, I don't know if you guys agree with me, but
8 it's time for our men to start paying for the -- for the
9 things we put our women through. Once we do that, then we
10 can get the world to take us seriously. Once we starts
11 being punished properly and they say, okay, these Inuit
12 people, they don't accept their men doing that to their
13 women, why are we letting it happen to their women? We
14 better start protecting these women because they're going
15 to start coming for answers soon. Right now, we can't get
16 answers from them. They'll say, ha, ha, what are you
17 talking about? You guys beat your women on a regular
18 basis, right? We can't get no answers when we're doing
19 that. We can't make the world listen until we make our own
20 people listen. That's where we're going to have to start
21 is we're going to have to start, we're going to have to
22 make every one of us men like me pay. Once we start seeing
23 men like me pay, not a little slap on the wrist, not a
24 year's probation for beating your wife up, you know, making
25 her eyes swell up so bad that, you know, her -- it's just

1 her nose or something sticking out.

2 My wife -- I'll be honest with you, [two
3 *sentences redacted - Rule 55*]. I did. I'm not -- I'm
4 ashamed to talk about it, but I'm not ashamed to talk about
5 it because I have to talk about it. It's the only way to
6 heal is to let people know what you've done, where you've
7 been, and what you're doing to change it, and when people
8 see me now, they know where I came from. They know what
9 I'm like now. They know I'm not the same man. You know,
10 and it's not hard to do. You just got to be made -- like
11 myself, when [M.] came and told me, okay, Edmund, it's the
12 violence or it's [Daughter 1]. I had a choice. I had a
13 hard choice, but it was easy when I put my heart into it.
14 Right? We don't have -- people are not made to choose like
15 that enough here.

16 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm. M'hm.

17 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know, you're not
18 made to show, you know, you got a lot to lose. I -- I did
19 have a lot to lose. I would have lost the -- right now,
20 I'm married to a beautiful woman, beautiful soul. She'd do
21 the world for anyone. You know, she was there through the
22 hard times with me. She put up with the beatings. She put
23 up with the fooling around. She put up with everything to
24 get to this man I am, that she got now, and I love her for
25 it. I'll never leave her. I'll never hurt her again, all

1 because she stuck by my side.

2 I still have my ex-wife telling me to come
3 home, come home, I know you've changed now. I say, I can't
4 come home to you. Why not? Because there was a woman that
5 stood by my side all through this and made me the man I am
6 today. I said, I can't go to -- I said, how fair do you
7 think that would be to her for her to love me with all her
8 heart and for her to put her side -- stand beside me all
9 through these years for me to change and then come running
10 back to you? No. I'm going to stick with the one that
11 stuck through it all with me, and that's what I'm going to
12 do.

13 My woman is a beautiful woman, beautiful
14 soul, and I wouldn't be here today without her and without
15 my adopted daughter. I wouldn't be. I'd be in jail just
16 like -- you know, and for the things that I did, I'd
17 probably be in jail for a long time, right? I'm -- you
18 know, I'm a very lucky man to be sitting here in front of
19 guys with the -- with -- with what I can speak about today.
20 You know, I -- I did spend time in jail and stuff like
21 that, but not like most men. I grew up in a mainly white
22 society. I'm not like most of the guys around here. I
23 don't get drunk and then say, oh, I'm going to do this, and
24 then it's done, and then you get in trouble, and you go to
25 jail. I was a -- I was a member of organized crime for

1 nearly 20 years. We plan our shit, you know, we only keep
2 it through a couple people, you never get caught. There's
3 things out there, like you said, I won't even mention it
4 now that I know that you do that there, but I could write a
5 book on what I've done and the life I've lived, and I plan
6 on it one day, just to show people that you can live a
7 frigging life where I could blame people. I could blame
8 [C.C] (phonetic), I could blame [B.B.], I could blame
9 [H.B.] (phonetic) for the way I am. I could blame [D.C.]
10 (phonetic), and I could blame all the boys that used to
11 gang up at me four or five time, people (indiscernible),
12 throw you down on the ground and kick you till you didn't
13 move. That's what I went through on almost a daily basis
14 as -- as a young Inuit boy in Goose Bay, and I could blame
15 that on what I do, or I can just say, look, I didn't do no
16 wrong, those guys did all the wrong, why am I punishing
17 other people for it? What do I have to do to change it?
18 And that's what I decided, and that's what I'm doing.

19 I don't know, I'm stuck on one topic because
20 it's the topic that I'm most -- that I'm the most hurt by.
21 It's still happening. I bet you now if you went around
22 town, you'd probably see someone else getting the smack
23 now. Like, if you went into some certain houses.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Right? It's a daily

1 thing here.

2 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M-hm.

3 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** It's a daily thing
4 here.

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** It's on Facebook every
7 day: Oh, I wish they'd shut up next door, screeching and
8 bawling, the woman screeching and bawling and stuff,
9 because it's normal. You know, I know now in a
10 relationship, it's healthy to argue and stuff, constructive
11 arguments, you know, not a threatening argument.

12 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

13 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Not a belittling
14 argument, not an argument where you say, oh, you're so
15 stupid, or an argument where you bring up your past and
16 stuff. I'm to the point in my -- in my mental healing now
17 that I can't have (indiscernible). I don't have to turn
18 around and scare them with my fists or my feet or my words
19 anymore because I know that my opinion is not always the
20 right one. My -- my choices are not everybody's choices.
21 Everybody else got choices of their own.

22 And -- I don't know. I know that we
23 probably would have had a lot more help with my sister when
24 we first made a phone calls if we didn't have so
25 many -- I -- I say stereotypes, but they're not

1 stereotypes, you know? You know, my mother was -- she was
2 having a few drinks that weekend, which is normal for my
3 mother. Like -- and now since Loretta, it's worse. [*One*
4 *line redacted - personal information*].

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** But -- so that
7 weekend, Mom called me a couple times. She was like,
8 Loretta won't answer her phone for me, and -- [*Two lines*
9 *redacted - personal information*] so -- by the time Monday
10 morning come around, Mom called me again, and she was like,
11 I still never heard from Loretta. I said, what's her
12 number, Ma? I'll call her. Because when Mom couldn't get
13 a hold of Loretta, if they were feuding, she'd call me, and
14 I call her, then Loretta, it's time to call Mom now, and
15 never fail, Loretta would answer for -- for me on the
16 phone.

17 So this morning, I gets up, I'm smoking by
18 the stove, and Mom calls me again: I still haven't heard
19 from her. All right, Mom, I'll try calling her. So I
20 starts leaving messages: Hey, little girl, Mom's trying to
21 get a hold of you. [*One line redacted - personal*
22 *information*].

23 That went on for a while. I was leaving
24 messages for about an hour, and I said -- call Mom back.
25 Mom, how long were you leaving messages? All weekend, she

1 said. I said, someone is answering her phone or her
2 messages because if not, it would be filled up now with all
3 the messages I left this morning.

4 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Hm.

5 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** So I started leaving
6 messages: Hey, little -- hey, little sis, if you're in any
7 kind of trouble, you know, brother got some money. And
8 that was always my way to get her to talk to me. If she
9 needed money, she would -- brother got some money here if
10 you needs it. No answer. So holy fuck, what the fuck's
11 going on? Mom, what -- I tried -- I tried to talk to her,
12 but she's not answering me back. There's something going
13 on there.

14 So anyways, I started thinking, then I
15 started leaving messages: Hey, man, if there's anyone on
16 my sister's phone listening -- and because of the lifestyle
17 we all lived at one point or another -- if she owes any
18 money, I got money here for her. Don't even fucking do
19 nothing to my sister. Just tell us where -- whatever, if
20 she's in trouble for money or whatever.

21 I did that for about an hour. And when I
22 realized, I said to myself -- I lit up another smoke, and I
23 said that for about an hour, and I closed my eyes and said,
24 dear God, show me where my sister is, and when I closed my
25 eyes, all I could see was her side on, facing downwards,

1 and blue, and I called Mom, and I said, it's not good, Mom.
2 What? I said, what comes out of this is not going to be
3 good.

4 So I called the phone one last time, and I
5 said on the phone, I'm going to fucking hunt you down, and
6 I'm going to kill you. The phone started -- it was full
7 after that. They never answered no more messages, and I
8 started crying, and I said, Mom, I fucked up, and she said
9 what? I said, I had to mention her looking at her
10 messages, but I left one message. I said that -- that I
11 was going to hunt them down and kill them, and now the
12 phone is full. She said, Edmund, you fucked it up, Edmund.
13 Now we're never going to find her. Said, I'll find her,
14 Mom.

15 So I got my ticket up to Goose Bay. When I
16 got to Goose Bay, my dad's family called me: What can we
17 do for you? I need the ticket. I want to go look for her.
18 So they put their points together, got me a ticket. What
19 else can we do for you? I wants my Uncle Mark to be there
20 because he knows the streets. So they got a ticket for
21 him? I wants my brother -- my baby brother Jimmy James,
22 too, because he's strong and I knows he can take care of
23 me, and they asked if there was anyone else? I said I
24 wants Paula to be there. They said, why Paula? I said,
25 because she knows the streets of Halifax. She -- she lived

1 the streets of Halifax, and if she got to get me somewhere
2 fast, she'll get me fast. So they got her there.

3 So anyways, I said to Dad, I said if they're
4 using her phone, man, I wish we knew her banking info. Dad
5 said, I knows the banking info. And he looked at it,
6 and -- actually, before that all happened, before I jumped
7 on a plane, I knew my sister was gone because after the
8 phone filled up -- sorry for omitting this, but after the
9 phone filled up, I called Bell Mobility, and I said, my
10 father wants to know where my sister's cell phone dinged
11 off the tower last. She said, we can't tell you that. So
12 I told her what was going on, and I said, I don't want your
13 name, nothing like that. I know you can get in trouble for
14 this. She said, one minute. She got off the phone, and
15 she come back, and she said, does your sister know anyone
16 in Windsor, Ontario? I said, no, she don't. She said, do
17 you guys know anyone in Windsor, Ontario? I said, no, we
18 don't, ma'am, thank you very much, and I hung up on her.

19 I called back to the Halifax police, and I
20 said, what are you doing about my sister? We're going to
21 wait 24 hours or whatever, and then we'll fill out a
22 missing -- no, you're not. You're going to tell me why my
23 sister's phone is in Windsor, Ontario. That was good
24 enough.

25 I jumped on a plane as fast as I could that

1 morning, and when I got to Goose Bay, Mom and Dad was
2 already in -- and that's when I said to Dad, I wish we knew
3 her banking info. So he said, I do know it, and then we
4 noticed that they were using her card all the way along,
5 and the things that went through your head after that, what
6 the fuck did they do to her to get her pin number? They
7 must have tortured her. They had to have done stuff to
8 her. The shit that went through your fucking head, what
9 they done to her to get her pin number, when all this time
10 it was a tap. I can't even bring myself to have a tap on
11 my card. They give me a new card at the bank, and they
12 said, do you want tap on there? No, thank you, my dear,
13 that's how they used my fucking sister's money.

14 So anyways, I had to watch Dad for the whole
15 day on -- I don't know when the hell I got out to Halifax.
16 Had to watch Dad every half-hour walk down to the
17 Royal Bank to put in another 40 or 50 bucks so them
18 bastards could spend it so we can keep track of them.
19 Every time they spend the money, my poor old dad walked
20 back down to the fucking Royal Bank and put in another \$50
21 in, and we'd wait for them to spend it again. Then we told
22 the cops this was going on. Why do you think they found
23 him so fast? It's not because of the police work that they
24 done. It's because of the police work that Edmund done.
25 Edmund found out all of a sudden that the cell phone is in

1 Ontario. That's not normal. So we find out her banking
2 info. We find out her banking info. I knew -- they
3 wouldn't let me out of Halifax. I knew which route she
4 took. I knew which banks -- bank places which -- where
5 they used her bank cards. I knew exactly where to look.
6 They wouldn't let me leave the -- leave the city. Between
7 the cops and Cheryl Maloney and all them there, they would
8 not let me leave.

9 The last day, the day they found her, my
10 Aunt Barb got in there the night before, and she said,
11 Edmund, what can I do for you? I said, you can go and take
12 care of the media this morning while I fucks off and goes
13 looks for my sister, and she said, okay.

14 I was one hour away. I took one wrong turn.
15 I turned down towards the little ferry because I thought we
16 had to catch the ferry to New Brunswick. When I realized
17 the wrong that I did, I came back out, and it took an
18 hour -- half-hour to go in, half-hour to come back, and
19 then come to find out I was about an hour away from where
20 they found her, because when I pulled off to the side of
21 the road to go down that road down there, the ghost car
22 took off and flew past me. They were following me. Hour
23 later, they found her. I'm glad I never found her. I
24 would have went insane. I was almost insane as it was.
25 You know? I was almost insane as it was.

1 But right down to not letting -- no, no, no,
2 they used to say, we're retracing -- we were following
3 their movements. Their movements was the movements that me
4 and Mom and Dad gave them through the bank info and through
5 the phone info. They were following what we already done.
6 It took them two days to find them, like, after -- after I
7 got to Halifax, two days later, they had the woman,
8 and -- they -- they had the fellow sent in first, and -- so
9 anyway, we were talking to the cops that morning, and they
10 said, he's not giving us anything, basically spitting in
11 our face. Then I seen on the -- on my little BlackBerry,
12 they're get -- hey, Paula. What? They're getting ready to
13 bring her from Ontario now. How long of a flight is that?
14 She said, about an hour and 15 minutes. I said, where they
15 going to bring her? They're going to bring her to Bermwood
16 (phonetic). How many streets is in and out of there? One.
17 Good. Let's go wait on the corner.

18 Wait on the corner, see these two beautiful
19 silver Dodge Chargers coming, and they put on signal lights
20 to come in. When they noticed our car there, both of them
21 booted her towards Halifax. Paula said, we're chasing
22 them. We chase after them, and we were just getting in off
23 the overpass -- off the bridge. One turned off going down.
24 She said, follow that one. No, that's the decoy. Started
25 chasing them more, and I said to my uncle and my brother, I

1 was in the backseat. I said, when he pulls up alongside
2 that car, you point your fingers at them like we're
3 shooting that car right up.

4 So that's what we did. When we pulled
5 alongside that car, when we finally did -- we chased them
6 all around in Halifax. When we finally got to a set of
7 lights where we could pull up, we all went and pointed to
8 the back seat like that there, and you could see the two
9 cops in the front laughing. Not a word of a lie. You
10 could see the two cops in the front laughing.

11 The next morning, a cop comes up and shakes
12 my hand. He said, you did good last night. I said, did I
13 do -- did -- well, we didn't do last night work. He said,
14 you did a good job last night. He said, she went in there,
15 and she spilled her guts. Told us everything, he said.
16 Before that, up in Ontario, she was doing the same thing as
17 him, basically spitting in their face. So in my little
18 way, I feel I fulfilled what I had to do --

19 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

20 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- in my part of it
21 all to get them -- I think I did, but now it's time for us
22 as a people to start making the changes that, you know,
23 puts these road blocks in front of us.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know, oh,

1 they're -- they're Native, they're probably just gone on a
2 drinking binge again, because that was one of the things
3 that they said to us, or she has a history of drug use.
4 She's probably gone on a binge again. No. My sister,
5 don't matter how fucking high she was, she would answer the
6 phone for me when she used to be at the drugs. You know?
7 It's not that. It's something else. When you know your
8 family, and you got people that don't even know you or
9 don't even know your family telling you, oh, no, man, she's
10 probably just drunk or probably just on a binge, not
11 answering her phone for you; no, my goddamn sister always
12 answered the phone for me. I know if there's something
13 going on. You check into it, and it took them -- like, Mom
14 started calling on -- on Friday. It took them until I -- I
15 called them on Monday, and they actually started trying to
16 move on anything, you know? 48 hours -- the first 48, you
17 ever watch that movie? The first 48 hours is very
18 important in a shit like this, in a murder case especially,
19 you know? So why let it go two, three, four weeks before
20 you even starts doing a proper investigation?

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

22 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** If one of us is gone
23 missing, start looking for us just like if anyone else goes
24 missing, man. You know? If I was a hundred percent white
25 and (indiscernible) called after me gone for 72 hours,

1 they'd be looking for me. They'd be looking for me.
2 Right? This is why when Loretta first went missing, a
3 26-year-old Caucasian girl from Labrador. It was. It was
4 Caucasian in the first ad, then it became
5 Delilah -- Loretta Saunders and -- what was it? Inuk.

6 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Hm.

7 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** After. While it was
8 Loretta Saunders, a Caucasian, we were always getting even
9 calls on my cell phone with tips and stuff like that, you
10 know, and maybe you should check into this, maybe you
11 should check into that. As soon as it came out Inuk, it
12 all started to slow down, you know? It all started to slow
13 down, even the help we had. When she was a Caucasian, we
14 were getting free meals and stuff at restaurants, right?
15 After it was Inuk, we were pretty much on our own, just
16 volunteers bringing us food and stuff. You know, that's
17 how we are looked at, and it's time to be changing that.
18 We are the first people that ever was in -- in Canada.

19 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

20 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** And, you know, while
21 3,000 -- 5, 6, 7,000 years, long before, you know,
22 John Cabot and that came, we walked around the northern
23 part of the whole globe.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know, 5, 6,000

1 years before they realized that the earth wasn't flat, we
2 already walked around the northern hemisphere. We knew the
3 earth was round and stuff, right? We're not a stupid
4 people. You know? And we're tough people. Where else do
5 you find people surviving the harshest places in the
6 world --

7 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

8 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- and thrive, you
9 know? Most people, they'll come up here in the wintertime,
10 they'll look around, and they say, where the hell do you
11 get your food? There's food everywhere. You just got to
12 know where to look for it, and that's the things we do
13 know, right? But the things we don't know is -- when
14 alcohol was introduced to us and -- and all this stuff, we
15 didn't -- we didn't know how to handle it, so
16 automatically, with the residential schools and with the
17 relocations and the new alcohol and stuff like that, all
18 these new social issues became a problem. You know,
19 violence against women, violence against the kids. When
20 that became a problem -- it's been how many years now since
21 we've been with the white people? Over a hundred years or
22 more, right? So, okay, now we're left with all these
23 problems with alcohol and violence and stuff like that
24 there, but yet we're going to still look back and blame it
25 on the relocation. We're going to still look back and

1 blame it on the residential schools. Okay. We know the
2 source of the problem, but stop using it as an excuse now.
3 We know the problem. Once you know the problem, you can
4 fix it.

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Okay? We
7 just -- stop -- stop using these excuses. Things that were
8 done to me was wrong, yes. I didn't do no wrong. They did
9 it. It's not (indiscernible) for me to use that as an
10 excuse to hurt people anymore, and that's a sick excuse. I
11 see that a lot of times in our general -- in our
12 court: Oh, I was abused, or I was beat up when I was
13 younger, and the man will cry, and he'll -- you know? And
14 they'll get let off easy. They'll get let off easy. A lot
15 of people were abused, and a lot of people were molested,
16 and a lot of people were beat up when they were younger. A
17 lot of people don't turn into monsters, but we're a town
18 full of monsters here. There's not a whole lot of men
19 around here that --

20 I will tell you something. There's one guy
21 here, I don't see eye to eye with him, but there not long
22 ago, a guy sexually assaulted his daughter. He went over,
23 and he -- he give it to buddy. He's the first man I ever
24 seen stick up for their daughter around here. I don't see
25 eye to eye with him, but I got a lot of respect for him for

1 doing that, because someone actually took a stand against
2 what was done to one of their daughters.

3 There's men here, their daughters get beat
4 up on a regular basis. They don't stay a damn word to the
5 fellow that's doing it, you know, because they're afraid.
6 They're afraid. Pick up the phone and call the cops and
7 say, no, do your job for once this time. We're sick of my
8 daughter getting beat up, month after month after month,
9 and you's doing nothing. They're -- it's so normalized
10 that -- I could go down to Bev's for a party, and me and
11 another -- or I could be beating up my wife in front of
12 them, and Bev could call the cops. It'll take -- a
13 7-minute walk from there to there, it'll take them an hour
14 and a half, two hours to come investigate. I could have
15 someone killed in that time and buried and -- and
16 everything, you know? That's how -- that's how seriously
17 we are taken by people like the authorities. We're not
18 taken seriously at all.

19 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

20 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know? Any time of
21 the day, you know, this time of the day, you try calling
22 over to the -- over to the detachment with an emergency,
23 you're patched out through St. John's. Then St. John's
24 will call (indiscernible), then maybe an hour and a half
25 later or (indiscernible) sometimes, the cops will show up.

1 Hm? I've called the cops on people cracking up at my house
2 that they never, ever did show up. I had to physically
3 take the people and throw them away, you know, myself. You
4 know, it's time for us to be treated as human beings too.

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** That's another
7 problem. The outside world don't see us as human beings.

8 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Right.

9 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** They don't. They look
10 at us as a lesser people.

11 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Hm.

12 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Even though we were
13 the first people here on this land; even though for
14 thousands of years, we lived by the land's rules. You
15 know, they took us, and -- and they treat us now, we've got
16 to be the most surviving people in the world. Like, throw
17 anyone out there in the middle of winter here and don't
18 give them -- you know, few hours, they're gone.

19 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

20 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** But we -- we survived
21 in this for thousands and thousands and thousands of years.
22 We're strong people.

23 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

24 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** We used to fight polar
25 bears. We -- we get a polar bear, we let our dog team go

1 after the polar bear, and we'd kill them with a stick and a
2 sharp rock on there.

3 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

4 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** That takes courage.
5 That takes a lot of -- lot of courage and -- and -- you
6 know, all that stuff that was in the Inuit people was taken
7 away from them --

8 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

9 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- with the
10 residential schools, with the relocation; all this stuff
11 that we had to be proud of was all taken away from us. I
12 wish I knew our -- our proper stories. I'd be a much
13 better carver. We don't even have our traditional stories
14 anymore. I -- I would be a better carver because I would
15 be able to tell a story with my piece. Right now, I'm just
16 making things out of my mind. I don't know our story on
17 Sedna. I know the far north story on Sedna, and I know
18 Alaska's story on Sedna and stuff like that, but I don't
19 know the Labrador Inuit story on Sedna. I -- you know,
20 we've even lost straight down to how did we marry each
21 other? Was there a marriage ceremony?

22 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

23 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know? Like, we
24 don't know anything about ourselves, so how are we supposed
25 to get by as a -- as a -- a people with no identity, you

1 know?

2 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

3 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Took our identity away
4 from us, and then, you know, immersed us into a culture we
5 didn't understand. This is -- is no excuse, but yes, it
6 all happened, but, you know, we are a very traumatized
7 people with no help. There's no help, no real help, right?

8 Go to the safe house; 400 people, and that
9 place is in big-time use. With 400 people? You would
10 expect that from a town of Goose Bay size or, you know, a
11 city for it to be always fullled up and that, but you
12 wouldn't expect it in a little town of 400 people, that
13 women that actually got to run away to be safe, you know?
14 It's not right. It's time we start making our men pay for
15 what we do to the women.

16 Even right down after they found her,
17 the -- we weren't allowed to really do anything or say
18 anything. We were kept quiet, and that's why I got on
19 them, it was that time, and I said, we're not the little
20 people like my grandfather. We're not going to sit down.
21 We're not going to shut up. Not me. Not me, not people
22 like me. We know we have a voice, and we know we're
23 allowed to use it.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** And I'm not ashamed to

1 use my voice.

2 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

3 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** We need to speak up
4 against our own people. Once we start making our own
5 people pay, then we can start speaking up against all the
6 other wrongs that are being doing to us, because until we
7 takes care of the wrongs we're doing to ourselves, there's
8 not a soul in the world going to take us seriously. It's
9 so normal that my wife used to make excuses for me for
10 beating her up. Oh, I pissed him off, or I got to take two
11 weeks off work because I got black eyes, and the boss will
12 let you? You know, the boss go, okay, you take all the
13 time you needs, and you heal your eyes up so you don't have
14 to come to work with black eyes and stuff, and -- and it's
15 normal. You know, I found it really strange when [M.] come
16 up and told me, you got to stop doing that now. Right?
17 Because for a long time, no one said anything to me about
18 it. Not a soul. I'm -- I'm -- I'm really glad that [M.]
19 was in the position she was in because I don't think many
20 other people would have told me that, you know? I don't
21 think many other people would have -- would have said that
22 to me: It's time for you to choose between [Daughter 1]
23 and the violence and alcohol. No one would have said to me
24 because they would have got a punch in the mouth. No one
25 makes me choose. I do what I want, (indiscernible). But

1 she put me down to rock bottom where I was going to lose
2 something that I really loved.

3 I really loved that girl. She was my second
4 chance. You can't tell me it wasn't fate. We got her when
5 she was two months old. When her first birthday come
6 along, her first birthday was on my birthday, 27 years
7 later, [birthdate]. How many times do you get that kind of
8 a coincidence in your life, you know, both of us born on
9 [birthdate], 27 years to the day apart? To myself, that
10 was a sign. She was meant to be mine. I'd never do
11 anything to hurt -- I -- I'm closer with [Daughter 1] than
12 I am with my two older kids because that -- I was there
13 financially, but I couldn't always be with them, and [Son]
14 and [Daughter 2], they're going to grow up, and they learn
15 to fend for themselves and to take care of themselves, but
16 with -- with [Daughter 1], I was always -- always there,
17 and I feel more like a -- I have to be obligated to take
18 care of her, and I feel like I'm in debt to her for what
19 she did for my life, anyway.

20 I don't know what else to say.

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** How do you feel?

22 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I'm -- I'm actually
23 pretty good. I'm used to letting my emotions come out when
24 you got to. Yeah, not too bad with that.

25 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Can I ask a couple of

1 questions?

2 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Yeah.

3 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Going back to when you
4 first started telling your -- your story about the abuse
5 you experienced when you were 6, 7 years old.

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** M'hm.

7 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Did you -- or were you
8 able to -- or did you feel there was anyone that you could
9 trust around you to tell what was happening to you at that
10 time? Was there any --

11 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Back when I was that
12 age, life was -- I would imagine -- it was chaotic for me,
13 so I can imagine what it was like for my parents, you know.
14 I was scared of my parents when I was really young.

15 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

16 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I -- I was.
17 Like -- and I think -- like I said, it comes back to the
18 people that do these things to people. They -- they're
19 predators. They -- they know. They know which ones they
20 can get away with --

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Right.

22 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know, they know
23 which ones they can control to the point where they'll shut
24 them up, eh? So --

25 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** So --

1 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- I was one of those
2 people that they could do it to. You know, it was always,
3 like, you tells your mom, they're not going to believe you,
4 and they're going to give you a beating.

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Okay? So that was the
7 way they controlled you.

8 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Right.

9 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Controlled me.

10 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

11 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** As I got older,
12 I -- like I said, I was an evil motherfucker, man, and I
13 worked in Voisey's Bay there, and one of my molesters,
14 [B.B.] was there. He was working on my -- on my crew. I
15 was the lead hand on my crew.

16 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** And he was one of your
17 abusers?

18 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Yes, he was one of my
19 abusers. Yeah.

20 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** When you were that age?
21 When you were 6 or 7 years old.

22 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Yeah, he was one of my
23 abusers then, but this is working in Voisey's Bay. Now I
24 was in -- like -- like I said, in my hard days, my early
25 20s and stuff, and he was -- he was working alongside me in

1 the truck. Like, we were -- we were delivering water to
2 all the -- all the places, and -- he's a bigger boy, and I
3 just figured, like -- and he got out of the truck and he
4 sat down, and he said, man, Edmund, he said, I feel
5 something strange, I'm right weak. Oh, go on with you,
6 [B.B.]. It's only the heat getting to you, that's all, and
7 I was thinking in my head, die, you motherfucker, die.

8 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** So --

9 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I waited
10 45 minutes -- I seen it. His face was like that, you know.
11 I seen it.

12 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** So you -- you beat him,
13 then? You -- when -- when you saw him --

14 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** When I saw him --

15 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** -- in Voisey Bay --

16 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** When -- no, no. We
17 were working together on the same crew.

18 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

19 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I had to work with him
20 on a daily basis. He started having a stroke.

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Oh, okay.

22 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** He started having a
23 stroke, and he was sat down, and he was sweating --

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- and his face was

1 all like this, and his arm -- oh, no, I sat there for
2 45 minutes. Like I said, I was a bad dude then, and I
3 hated him. I sat there for 45 minutes. No, [B.B.], man,
4 it must be just the heat. Here, I'll get you some water.
5 I went and got him water a few times and stuff. In the
6 meanwhile, his face was like this, and I know he's taking a
7 stroke, and in my head, I'm thinking, die, you fucking
8 motherfucker, die. Die. You deserves it. But then I
9 started thinking, here I am a First Aid, and he got -- he's
10 taking a stroke. I know he's taking a stroke. If he dies,
11 I'm screwed. I'm going to jail. So I ended up having to
12 call on the radio and get medical for him.

13 Another time I seen him on the ranger, and
14 he was -- you know, how the ranger is on the boat there on
15 the back there where the dog kennels are? He was leaning
16 right over the edge. He didn't know I was there. Leaned
17 right over the edge, big heavy-weighted man in the top. I
18 walked up. I was just about to do it. I walked up, and I
19 was going to grab his legs and put him on over, but I
20 didn't.

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay. So what -- through
22 those feelings that you were experiencing at that time,
23 the -- the anger and the rage, what -- what tools did you
24 use to restrain yourself?

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Like --

1 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Did you have any tools
2 to -- to prevent yourself from hitting this person at that
3 time, or was it just all willpower that...

4 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Just the willpower.

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** And --

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Just knowing that, you
7 know -- I say that it was bad when I was young. Yes, it
8 was bad when I was young, but when -- that's why Loretta
9 was a saviour for us, eh? When Loretta come, that's when
10 the whole world changed for us. Everything got beautiful.
11 You know, my mom and dad, they sort of started going to
12 church and stuff. They give up all the drinking. They
13 give up the violence. You know, it was a really good time
14 for -- until I moved out of my house, then?

15 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Right.

16 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** A really good time.
17 Like, we -- every year, we go on summer vacations to, like,
18 P.E.I., Nova Scotia and all that. It was always religious
19 vacations, but, you know, it was always a good time.

20 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Right.

21 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** And -- but after
22 Loretta got killed, I was pretty well starting to go back
23 to the old ways.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** What do you mean by that?

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** My [family members]

1 were very angry all the time. You know, they lash out at
2 each other. They're very -- they're -- it's not physical
3 anymore.

4 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Right.

5 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** [*Three lines redacted*
6 - *personal information*] and I try to tell her, Mom, I can't
7 hear this because I'm trying to heal, and every time you
8 call me like this here, it hurts me in my healing, and then
9 she gets angry with me because she thinks that I should be
10 hurting, and she thinks that I should be, like,
11 self-destructing and stuff like that [*one line redacted -*
12 *personal information*], but I choose not to. There's
13 nothing we can do. There's no amount of crying. There's
14 no amount of hate. There's no amount of frigging bawling
15 and screeching.

16 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

17 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** There's no amount of
18 violence can bring that woman back.

19 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

20 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Can't bring my sister
21 back.

22 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

23 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know? The only
24 thing I hope in my lifetime now is I hope that when I leave
25 this earth, my life has even one-tenth of the meaning that

1 hers had for the people today.

2 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

3 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know? I really
4 believe that this happened to her for a reason. She opened
5 up the world's eyes on something that is very, very, very
6 important.

7 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

8 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Especially to our
9 women.

10 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

11 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know, it's too bad
12 that it had to happen to her, you know. It really is, but
13 I hope my life -- even one-tenth of the meaning that
14 had -- hers has had --

15 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

16 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- I hope to have
17 because I'd be a proud man then --

18 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Right.

19 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- because my life
20 meant something then.

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

22 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** M'hm.

23 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Going back to another
24 thing you mentioned earlier on in -- in our statement, and
25 that was your recognizing people like Beverly that's here

1 in the room today. For the record, Beverly -- your name?

2 **MS. BEVERLY HUNTER:** It's Hunter.

3 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Hunter. Beverly Hunter,
4 for the record, is in this room. She's -- she has worked
5 in trauma and has -- you say that you have received
6 counseling from?

7 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Well, not really.

8 Just --

9 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay. Just --

10 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** That was my best
11 friend's wife.

12 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Just -- okay.

13 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know, they helped
14 me --

15 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Just the guy that's --

16 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- big time through --

17 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

18 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:**
19 Especially -- especially her husband.

20 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** All right.

21 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** He's the only one of
22 two men in my lifetime I ever told that I loved, you know.

23 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

24 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Like, besides my dad.

25 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** So do you think that by

1 staying in Hopedale, you were able -- because it's a small
2 community and you got close to somebody who helped you,
3 that -- that connection has helped you tremendously.

4 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I think so.

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** That's what I understand
6 from your --

7 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** And her husband opened
8 my -- like --

9 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

10 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I used to -- going
11 back to it, it was still a -- like, tumultuous time there
12 between me and my wife, and we were renting the house.
13 You're going to remember this, too, when I tells it.

14 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

15 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** And me and her got
16 into an argument, me and my wife. I said, what the fuck
17 are you trying to do? Are you trying to make me kill
18 myself in? And she ranned way --

19 (LAUGHTER)

20 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** -- over to Bev and
21 Mark's, and I never thought nothing of it because to me,
22 that was a normal argument.

23 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

24 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Here I am, I'm sitting
25 on the -- talking to Mom, yeah, me and [Wife] just had our

1 argument, and watching TV, and I don't know what's wrong
2 with me, Mom, I just blows up for nothing. I mean, I looks
3 out the window, and here's these two cops on their belly
4 crawling -- you could see the bushes going, you know?

5 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Hm.

6 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** And they're crawling
7 up in through there, and -- I opened up the door. Can I
8 help you guys? Yeah, we had a call from Mr. -- Mr. Hunter.
9 He said you're going to hurt yourself. I said, that
10 fucking bastard. I'm not going to hurt myself.

11 (LAUGHTER)

12 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** They said, can you lay
13 on the ground? So I lay on ground, and once they come and
14 got me and I talked to them and I told them the situation
15 there, they realized, you know, it was just an argument,
16 but they cared about me so much that if I said I was going
17 to hurt myself, they took it seriously, so...

18 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

19 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I'm glad I had people
20 like that with me. Yes. M'hm.

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** So --

22 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Very much so. It was
23 a big help in my healing.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** M'hm.

1 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Do you think that's
2 something that others would require that went through the
3 same experience as you have?

4 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Right now, I got a guy
5 that comes to my house every day. You know, up until a
6 while ago there, he used to be same as me. He beat up his
7 wife and all that there, and since I started talking to
8 him, he's quit the alcohol, and he says him and his wife
9 haven't been into a violent altercation in quite a long
10 time now, so I believe when do you have someone to go
11 through it with, you -- it is a big help.

12 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Especially if it's
13 another --

14 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Support -- support
15 groups are a big thing.

16 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah.

17 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Support systems and
18 support groups. If you got no support, you're not going to
19 make it.

20 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

21 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You're not going to
22 make it. I wouldn't have made it without the support that
23 I had.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** All right.

25 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** M'hm.

1 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Is there anything else
2 you'd like to add before we wrap it up?

3 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Not really.

4 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** No?

5 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** I hope I got my
6 message through. My biggest message, and I -- I really
7 like to stress it is that for everybody to take us
8 seriously.

9 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

10 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** And -- and to start
11 taking us seriously, we've got to take our own problems
12 seriously first.

13 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

14 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** We've got to start
15 taking care of what our men are doing to the women, and
16 we've got to start taking care of what our men are doing to
17 the children and the young girls too.

18 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

19 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** You know, it -- if you
20 want to really look at where our problems are stemming
21 from, I'll be the first man to sit down and admit it to
22 you: Me. This is where the problem starts. Right here,
23 at home. Me. And if a lot of men started saying that to
24 themselves, there'd be a lot less women -- lot less women
25 hurt. There would be, because once you started realizing

1 that the problem is me, you can start dealing with the
2 problem. The problem is not the guys that molested me.
3 The problems is not my bullies. You know, the problem is
4 not my mom and dad being ugly to me when I was a young boy.
5 You know, the problem is is me going out and beating up on
6 my wife or me going out and beating up on my -- on my
7 spouse or -- or -- you know -- you know, it's time for that
8 to change, time for the -- make the norm into violence is
9 not accepted rather than the norm being violence is
10 accepted. You know, it's not normal for violence. No
11 matter what you think. The only time in my mind violence
12 is any good is -- is when you've got to fight for the good
13 of your country.

14 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

15 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** That -- a war. That's
16 the only time violence is any good, when you've got to
17 fight for freedom of your country, or there's someone
18 touching my daughter or my wife or my son, you know?
19 That's the only time I'll ever get violent now is somebody
20 threaten my daughter or my wife or my kids.

21 You know -- actually, I lost being able to
22 be a foster parent because of that. I had two guys, [G.A.]
23 (phonetic) and [P.A.] (phonetic) calling me one day, just a
24 few years back now. You can probably remember
25 (indiscernible). They were, oh, we're going to beat you

1 up, we're going to kill you and all that there, and I had
2 two foster girls with me, [C.L.] and [S.], and we had my
3 girl there, and I was saying to the boys, I said, they're
4 saying they're coming up here and get me. This is not
5 fucking happening. I've got girls here. I got kids here.
6 I took my baseball bat, and I went down for the them. One
7 run away. He took an (indiscernible) stand-off. He took
8 the fucking coward way out if you want to ask my opinion.
9 The other one, [G.A.], he come out, and he took his
10 beating. He come out, and I give it to him. You know?
11 And that's the only time I ever hurt anyone.

12 Now, is if they've -- if they're going to
13 come around my house or if they're going to try and make it
14 bad for my daughter or my kids, yes, I will get violent
15 because I've got the right to protect my home and protect
16 my family.

17 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** M'hm.

18 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** But when it comes to
19 violence, it's not right for me to hit her or hit her or
20 hit you or hit my wife or hit my mother or my sister. It's
21 not all right for a man to hit a woman. It's not all right
22 for a man to -- like I told you the story, to make sexual
23 advances on a woman or touch them or, like, when -- what
24 they call weave-socking (phonetic), what we call
25 weave-socking, wait for them to pass out and get at them,

1 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Well, thank you.

2 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** M'hm.

3 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Thank you for your
4 statement. Thank you for sharing your truth.

5 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** M'hm.

6 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** And your views is very
7 important to the murdered and missing inquiry, that your
8 story has been presented in this way today.

9 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Thank you.

10 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** And we honour it.

11 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Thank you for your
12 time. I feel a lot better now. I finally had to get it
13 off my chest there.

14 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** So you feel better?

15 **MR. EDMUND SAUNDERS:** Oh, yeah. I feel a
16 hundred times better now. I can go home and carve now.

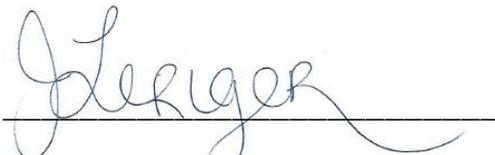
17 (LAUGHTER)

18 --- Upon adjourning at 1:43 p.m.

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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


Jenessa Leriger

September 12, 2018