National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part I Statement Gathering
Sheraton Hotel
St. John's, Newfoundland-and-Labrador

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Statement – Volume 509
Daniel Benoit,
In relation to Judy Benoit

Statement gathered by Chanel Blouin

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NOTE

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.
MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: This is Chanel Blouin a statement taker with the National Inquiry into Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls at St. John's, Newfoundland on October 16th, 2018 and the time is 9:59. Today I'm speaking with Daniel Benoit of the Qalipu, First Nation who resides in Stephenville. He's here to tell his truth for his mother named Judy Benoit. She was murdered on July 23rd, 1997 at Port au Port. He's also here to share his truth as a survivor. You are here voluntarily to provide your truth for Judy Benoit, your mother, and to provide your personal truth as a survivor. And you agree to the videotaping and audio taping of your truth?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yes.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So the story about my mother, it -- you know, the murder took place on July 23rd, 1997. That's not to say that there hasn't been issues prior to that date. Growing up my father, Dale Ogden, he was a very abusive man, suffered from, you know, drug abuse and he never really -- he wasn't a normal human being.

He had to have control over everybody, whether it was a child, a woman or even another man. So
growing up for me, there was me and my sister. I do have a blood sister. We suffered a lot of abuse as kids. You know, we witnessed -- well, my sister was too young so I've personally witnessed my mother being subject to a lot of abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse. I can't really say so much sexual abuse but I'm sure there probably have been issues of that as well.

Growing up, you know, there -- I do remember as a child that he had other encounters with other women during the time he was with my mother but he had also told me on numerous accounts that he was going to in fact hurt my mom. When and where, he never did say but I do remember being in the truck with him, because he worked with [Employee] at the time in Stephenville, and he had always made it a point to remind me that this was going to happen. And as a child, I mean, I never did know, you know, the difference between what he was talking about and what he truly meant because I was only three, four years old.

So he was the type of man that he came across as a real gentleman. He knew how to say the right things to the right people to make himself look like he was the ideal man. And my mom was very young. And you know, I'm almost walking in her footsteps, you know, story wise. She was -- she had me when she was 21. I had my first son
when I was 21. She passed away when I was 25. I'll be 25 next month. But if you were to speak to anybody, you know, she was living the ideal life for the longest time and nobody really knew it. She had the house, she had, you know, two kids, white picket fence. You know, this man who appeared to be a proper gentleman and everybody, you know, thought highly of him.

But the reality of it was the things that were going on behind closed doors, nobody ever really knew because she hid it quite well and no matter what it was that was done to her, she always managed to -- I don't know if it was because she loved him so much or if it was because she was just scared, but the only people that ever really knew was possibly my grandmother and she always felted that there was -- was she always felt as if there was something about this man.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** And this is your mother's mother?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Yes.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** She always felt as if there was something that wasn't quite right with him. I don't know if it was just her intuition but she just really did not bond with this man at all.

And over the years it came to the point
where he was getting more and more physical with my mom so she decided to file for a restraining order. And for a short period of time we did spend some time at the Willow House is Corner Brook but I remember speaking to my aunt as I grew older and she told me that after a few nights of staying at the Willow House my mother had an incident one night where she had felt as if she was being watched and she knew when she looked out the window she had seen a vehicle almost similar to his drive past where we were too and she knew at that moment in time that he knew where we were.

So she took it upon herself to leave the Willow House and the protection of the Willow House and we went back home.

Shortly after that I -- the timeframe is, you know, a little fuzzy to me because I was so young but on the night of July 23rd, 1997 was the night that the murder actually took place. And my mother always had an axe out on her front patio that she used to use for splitting wood and stuff like that. And, you know, this restraining order was still put in place so he had no reason to be anywhere near us at the time. Though every night he used to drive up and down the street. He used to park at the church hill and just watch the house. And there was always a great, big church in Port au Port. It's
still there until today right across from our driveway. And that's where he used to park and just kind of watch to see what was going on. I don't know if he was trying to see if she was involved with another man or -- I guess it was just coming down to the control.

So that night he decided to take it upon himself and he entered our home in the night time and I remember he came into my bedroom and when he woke me up he said, "There's a dog in the house and it's trying to hurt Mom." And he had to kill it. That was his excuse. So he woke me up and he led me out of my room and when I went out into the hallway he went in to my mother's room and that's where things took a turn for the worse that I would have never in a million years thought that this was what was going to happen.

And he had carried this axe from outside into this house and even telling me that there was a dog, you know, in the house and he had to kill this dog. The dog being my mother. And she was in bed and he immediately went in there and beat her so that when she woke up she was already being beat, you know, physically with his fist. I mean, shattered her nose. You know, she woke up, she was screaming, trying to fight him off. You know, she got up, she tried to, you know, run out of the room. She ended up pulled back in, you know.
And I'm watching this and I'm watching my mother kick and scream for her life and that's when he started to use the axe as -- as a weapon. And he had actually beat her so badly in -- in the head, you know, it was a very short period of time that I had to listen to these screams and see these horrifying images through this hallway into her bedroom window -- into her bedroom door. And after a short period of time, I mean, she -- she was beaten very, very bad. I mean, if you can imagine, you know, the back of an axe or the front of an axe, you know, the damage that you can do to somebody's head and body.

So once the screams and the crying and everything had silenced, he came out of this room and he had went into the bathroom and cleaned himself up and he took my hand and he went into my sister's room where she -- I mean, my sister was only a year and a half. She was in her crib crying because she woke up from the noise that was going on in this room from my mother fighting for her life. And he had took us and left the house.

And I remember it was one of those nights that was -- it was almost too perfect to have something so horrible happen. You know, it was a clear -- it was a clear night. You could count every star in the sky. There wasn't a breath of wind to be found. And from my mother's house we had actually walked out the driveway and maybe
about 500 metres down the road there was a driveway for an old shed that was on the right hand side of the road. And that's where he had his car parked so that nobody would have known that he was at the house.

So he had put us into the -- you know, he locked all the doors, you know, left my mother's body there in cold blood and put us into the car and he had actually drove off to his house which was in Kippens.

During that night, somehow he managed to hide the murder weapon and it was never found. They never did find where it was. I, until today, have an idea of where I think it's too because I had witnessed him place markers on trees in areas to which nobody would have expected to look for them. Until today I still got it in mind to go back with metal detector and see if I can't find something.

But the next morning when everything was said and done he had actually came back to the house. And being the type of man that he was, the murder didn't bother him. As horrible as what he did that night, it did not bother him whatsoever. He woke up as no different than I am today. No recollection of what he did.

When we got to the house he called the house. Obviously there was no answer. Knocked on the door. Nobody came to answer it. He knew what he did. Our
neighbours didn’t know what he did. Our neighbours,
[Neighbour], she -- she loved us like we were her own kids.
And he started to panic. Play panic so to say. Because he
was that type of individual, he knew how to play the game.
And he had actually went over and asked to see if he could
borrow a ladder because there was a window in the back of
the house that was directly into her room.

So knowing what he did, he went and got this
ladder and climbed up the ladder and there's my mother's
body laying next to her bed and the room is in a complete
mess because he literally beat my mother to, you know -- he
beat her to death in this room so you can imagine the mess
that was in there.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Were you there in the
morning?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yes, I was.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Like, with the ladder?

Okay.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And he went up and seen
this. And he had already made me watch what had happened
that night. Instead of just leaving me in my room or
closing the door and going and doing what he wanted to, he
actually woke me up so I could witness this. He decided to
take me up the ladder with him again in the morning. So I
mean, I'd already seen it that night but the last time I
had seen my mother is when I went up the ladder and I seen her body laying in this puddle blood next to her bed. And I mean, this room was in a mess. I mean, the bed that, you know, I slept in many times with them was completely covered in blood. The floor was covered in blood. She was face down on the floor in all this blood, you know.

So I had to basically witness everything that I witnessed the night before. I had to see this again. And it put me in shock. Because immediately after that, I mean, the neighbours, you know, ran over, called the cops, called the paramedics and they took me over to their house immediately because they knew that chances are it was him. And it didn't bother him at all. He tried to get into the house and pretend as if, you know, he had feelings.

But when the cops showed up he decided to leave the house and he had actually had his car parked on top of that church hill where he had watched us numerous times and that's where they had arrested him.

And when I was over at [Neighbour]'s house, the last image I remember seeing of my mother was her being brought out of that house on a stretcher being put into the ambulance with -- you know, in a body bag.

Immediately after that, you know, I was taking in police custody for questioning because I was
obviously an eyewitness to what had happened and my sister was placed under protective service with -- with social services. And, you know, the overall event was -- it was horrifying. The only way that my mother was identified, they couldn't -- they couldn't pick out what her face was. That's how badly she was beaten. She had a tattoo somewhere around here on her hand, if it was initials or something, and that's how they identified her body from a tattoo that she had on her forearm and a tattoo that she had on her hand, but you could not picture -- you could -- you could not pick out the woman from the night before to that morning. She was just -- she had a closed casket funeral. That's how badly she was beaten.

So he was -- he was arrested by police. I was taken in for questioning. My sister was in protective services. My grandmother had actually been called and she was notified about, you know, the death of her daughter.

And you know, the first thing she -- she had asked was, you know, "Where are the kids?" because she had feared the worse too. She had thought that maybe, you know, he would have done something to us. Which still to this day confuses me as to why he didn't. But that's the type of man that he was. He wanted to make us suffer for as long as he could while taking away the one thing that we loved the most and he wanted to make sure that there was no other
man out there that was going to be involved with her.

So when my grandmother came over to [Neighbour]'s I was sitting on the floor as, you know, paramedics and police were over to the house doing their own thing. And my grandmother came in and she asked me what had happened. And my response to her was what he had told me in the room about the dog. Still as a child, I mean, I was in shock. I -- I seen my mother's body. I seen her being beaten to death. I never, you know, knew exactly what it was that had happened. Even though I did. But I guess, you know, four years old, you know, your mother is your -- your pride and joy, right. You wouldn't -- you wouldn't expect or believe what had actually -- sorry, my nose is just running. You wouldn't expect that the worst -- or you wouldn't want to believe that she's gone even though you know that she is. And you know, when my grandmother asked me what had happened, that's what I told her. I -- I didn't tell her that, you know, mom was hurt or mom was dead or -- I told her that there was a dog that was in the house and was trying to hurt mom. Because I was in so much of shock that I basically repeated exactly what he said to me in the house.

So when I was taken by the police I went to the police station and they had -- you know, where I was in such shock I was focussed on this dog. I wasn't focussed
on what had happened. I was -- I was focussed on this dog that never did exist.

    MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Because you didn't see it you think?

    MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yeah, but I never seen the dog.

    MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

    MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I seen the murder but --

    MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

    MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- just being in shock, for some reason the dog stuck in my head. And they had said, "Okay, well, we'll get you to draw what you had seen." You know, I mean, I was four years old so, I mean, what is a four year old going to draw with regards to a murder? But I had actually drew a picture of my mother's room and a woman's body laying on the floor with a puddle of blood and a man standing up holding an axe. And me standing up in the doorway.

    So that was their telltale right there that I did in fact see this murder. They couldn't go too much into detail because, like I said, I was in shock at the time so they did what they could to get as much information out of me as they could but in that time they had also had Dale in custody and he was in -- my grandmother had went to
the police station and he was actually in there balling and screaming and he wanted to see her. Which is really odd because he knew what he did. He did it in such a horrifying and inhumane way and he was acting like a man who had actually lost a woman that he loved and had nothing to do with it.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: So he wanted to see her -- it -- he was kind of putting on a charade?

MR. DANIEL BENoit: Exactly.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay.

MR. DANIEL BENoit: So you know, this went on for quite some time, you know, bouncing back and forth but, you know, even when the funeral took place, even though it wasn't a funeral that was, you know, peaceful, you know, I -- I wasn't even in the care of my grandmother or my family during my mother's funeral. I wasn't even at the front of the church. I was in the back on the social worker's lap. So I didn't even get to see, you know, the rest of my family during this funeral.

And like I said, it was a closed casket funeral because of how badly she was beaten. And I mean, it was horrifying for anybody who would've seen anything like that. And I mean, it's only been the past couple years that, you know, when I finally opened up about the story that people knew exactly what had happened that night
and my family understood what it was that happened to her.

But with that being said, when Dale was sentenced, the judge told him -- and I mean, he's had a previous criminal record of break and entry, assault, theft, fraud. You name it. He had a long criminal record. And with a murder so severe and traumatizing me at the time, the judge told him that she could have gave him as little as ten years for the crime that he committed but instead she'll give him 14. So that's what she sentenced him to. Fourteen years for the murder of my mother who was a young woman full of potential.

And even until this day, he's been released on day parole on three separate occasions, one just being recently. And I've been fighting with them ever since because three times he's been released, three times he's breached his probation and has been put back behind bars including the past couple weeks. I had a call saying that he was released on day parole. He was going to be released to the [Region] region and I was at the movie theatre one night and I had a call from that area and they said, "Can I speak to Mr. Daniel Benoit, please?" I said, "Yes", you know, "speaking." And they said, you know, whatever his name was, he said, "I'm calling from the National Monitoring Centre." He said, "I'm here to inform you that there has been a warrant issued for Dale Ogden's arrest."
Now, this has only been a couple weeks ago. They never told me the specific incident as to why and I'm still waiting for answers.

But the time before that when he was released he was released to a halfway house and, you know, I did what I could by providing statements and my own personal pain to try and keep him behind bars, which a man like that should be because he hasn't learned and he proved it. When he got out he had actually started up a dating site on Plenty of Fish. He had changed his name, his identity. He had a cell phone and he was in contact with many women. Texting them, calling them. And there was a woman who was in the military and he met up with her on this dating website and, you know, for the longest time she was dating him, he was going to her house, wasn't checking back into this halfway house, going out to fancy restaurants.

Where -- where he was getting the money for this is beyond me. It's still a mystery until this day. She said he always had pockets full of cash. Never -- never an incident. Always took her to the nicest restaurants, was a proper gentleman, pulled her chair out --

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: You've met with her?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yeah.
MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay. How did you find out about this?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I had to do some research of my own.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And when I had -- when he was released on day parole I had went to CBC and they'd made my story. It went national within a day. Because when they finally found out, okay, you know, this man committed this crime and now he's released to the public. So this story took off within 24 hours. I had people all across Canada calling me for interviews and statements and -- I mean, my face was all over TV for -- for days and weeks.

And this woman had actually came across the article. And it turned out that she found him kind of strange because aside from him being a proper gentleman, she met with him, he said that he worked at -- at a security job. Said that he worked security. And she was military so she said yeah, you know, they would be a good match, right. They're kind of, you know, compatible. But she said he was very, you know, clingy I guess is a word that you could use for it. He -- you know, he would text her multiple times during the day, he -- if -- you know, if they left a restaurant he'd probably call her five, six
times before she even got home. And he was always talking, you know, about how, you know, his kids were going to school and he -- he came up with this fake life that never existed.

Now, he did have kids, yes, being me and my sister but it didn't go with the story that he was providing this woman. And she found it really strange. Like, she always found, like, he was lying to something about her because she used to come and pick him up but he always -- he was never getting dropped off at this halfway house. It was always at different spots. I guess he would probably just walk back so you'd never know. And she was wondering, like, why he had to be back at certain times. And there were some times where he did stay overnight and did have sexual encounters with this woman.

So when the story came out, she actually came across this article and her brother, I believe, was an RCMP officer who was actually on duty the day that my mother was killed. And he had came across this article and sent her this message saying, "Is this the man that you're dating?" And she didn't want to believe it because she was under the impression that she was dating this man who was in security, who never had a criminal record or anything. That's how well he had this hidden.

So the last night when she finally -- she
was becoming very scared because he was becoming very
attached to her. He was, you know, starting to be very
controlling and she was getting worried. So the last time
they had went out to a restaurant she had -- she addressed
him and asked him if there was anything that he needed to
tell her. And he had actually had these papers for his day
parole stating that he could leave the halfway house and
everything like that. And she had mentioned -- she had
seen this article and knew what he had done and she
addressed him. And he had showed her the papers and
basically, you know, admitted to who he was and what he had
done.

And she immediately got up and left him.
And she told me that in the run of an hour I think he
called her over 30 times. Just, you know, would not leave
her alone. And she actually feared for her life that much
that she had moved from Victoria to Ottawa with her
daughter while she had a security company come in and take
care of her home before she would go back because she was --
and she had actually contacted CBC and they contacted me
and asked if I would talk to her.

So I had actually phoned her and she wanted
to know everything about this man. And everything that I
had told her was exactly what he was covering up. The --
the story between how he was with my mother was exactly the
same as how he was with her. And she was terrified for her life. She would not go back to Victoria until she knew that he was behind bars.

And you know, with all this being said, he breached his probation on many, many occasions. I had the list of things that he wasn't supposed to be at. He wasn't supposed to have a cell phone. He wasn't supposed to be on any dating websites. If -- he was supposed to report any, you know, sexual relationships back to his parole officer.

It turns out that ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** He wouldn't report any of those?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** No, none of it. There --- like, he wasn't reporting back to the halfway house when he was supposed to. And when it all came around, like, this article that went national brought out a lot of information that was hidden. It turns out his officer actually provided him with the cell phone and put him on the dating website, set him up with the account.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Was the -- did his parole officer receive any kind of, like, disciplinary action?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Not from what I'm aware because after the story went national -- I was trying to fight for a long time to get a picture of this man because
I knew that his release date was coming up soon and I didn't ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Of your father?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yeah, and I did not know what this man looked like because it was 14 years since I had last seen his face so obviously it had changed. But it didn't change that much from what I -- when I actually did receive the picture. But that article had to go national before they released me a picture. But for the group that was involved with him, I don't know if anything ever became of that. I never did hear anything. I don't know if they were ever, you know, suspended or anything for their actions on what they did.

He was placed behind bars again because he did breach it, and all because of my findings and this woman was still very, very, very scared. She gave a statement to the parole board about her incident but she wouldn't -- she wouldn't, you know, go public with it or she wouldn't show her face or anything. But ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: How long was he put back in jail for?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: It was only about a little over a year. It wasn't even anything worth looking at because the minute that he was back in there they were already planning courses and things for him to be out on
temporary escorted absences and it was a joke. Because, I
mean, that incident right there proved -- and I -- I
believe it was 16 other women that he was talking to at the
time. So I mean, that many years in prison after
committing that murder to my mother, they released him
thinking that he was going to be, you know, a new man so to
say. And he went right back to his old ways. So they put
him back in jail for a year and released him out on day
parole again and here it is a couple weeks ago there was a
warrant issued for his arrest. I mean, is he back out
preying on women? Has he gone back after the woman that he
was -- you know, that I was in touch with, that she feared
for her life? I mean, that's one of the things that, you
know, worried me when I first heard about it because, I
mean, obviously he probably knows that she did speak
because, you know, it was brought up. I mean, is he -- is
she in his sights now? I mean, is she in danger? You
know, it's one of those things, I mean, could she possibly
end up like my mother? I mean, if that story never went
national, I mean, how long would he have played that --
that role before, you know, things would have gotten worse
and, you know, I would have found out that there was
another woman murdered by the hands of the same man.

So you know, I don't think that the system
takes it very seriously and that the people that they have
working for them are doing the right assessments because I know for a fact that the police force in [City 1] had actually even sent in a statement that did not support his release to the public in the community. They just -- the halfway house to which he stayed did not welcome him back so they had to find another halfway house.

So like, how is it that all these things are being said about an individual and you're still releasing him out to the public? I mean, that incident alone should have proven that he was not fit ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- to be out because he really is not. He's not stable. He -- I don't think that the 14 years was enough punishment, for one. Because I mean, not only are you committing a crime as horrifying as what he did to my mother but, I mean, you brought a child into the matter and made a child witness what had happened to my mother. It's not something anybody should ever have to see. I mean, most people go their entire lives and they don't ever witness something so severe. So where's the punishment for that?

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: What was the justification for such a low -- like, for so few ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: There wasn't.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- years?
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: There was nothing whatsoever. There was no explanation as to why there was such a low number of years provided in a sentence. And I mean, I don't -- like, I'm not saying this to be sexist but it was a female judge. So to me, I think it was a very unfair sentence because -- and I was surprised when I had went back and actually knew what was said in that court because, I mean, what's 14 years? I mean, most people now, you get more than that for a poaching charge than you do if you kill somebody. So I mean, you should be punished for the crime that you commit. And if you bring any children or anybody else involved, you should be punished for what you did to them as well. Because I lived, yes, but there were times where I did think of taking my life because of what I had witnessed. So if I were to commit suicide, which I'm not because, you know, I got a hold on all this, but if I were to have committed suicide because of what I had witnessed, my death should have fell on his hands.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Because I didn't commit suicide because of something that I couldn't -- you know, something that I brought on myself. That was forced on me. I didn't, you know, volunteer to stand up and watch my mother fight for her life that night. That wasn't anything that I would have done, you know. So -- and I believe that
there are a lot of people that are dealing with incidents like this that are too afraid to speak about. And they're just accepting the punishment that's being handed out, which is very minimal, and these individuals are being released back into the public with the possibility of this happening again.

I mean, I do know that Canada no longer has the death sentence but if you're not going to have that put in place, shouldn't -- shouldn't the family be at peace of mind once these offenders are, you know, placed in jail? I mean, shouldn't their worry and their stress and their pain be over?

Because for us, I mean -- I mean, it's been so long now but maybe he still has it in his mindset that somewhere along the line he's going to come back and find me or find my family or my son or -- I don't ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Is -- is that something that worries you?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: It is in one sense. I mean, as I grew older I've learned to, you know, protect myself, protect my family and kind of accept it. But I mean, I can't live a life where I had to be looking over my shoulder 24/7.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: But you do in one sense
because you never know where these people are going to be. I mean, I've seen often times now, you know, when there's a warrant issued for his arrest and nobody knows where he is, right. I mean, how far has he travelled before somebody realizes, okay, he's gone? Where -- who is he coming for or where is he going?

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So you know, in most cases, like, something would happen to -- to me and our family. I mean, we are the ones serving the life sentence because, you know, I lost my mother, my grandmother lost her daughter, you know, my aunts, uncle lost a sister. You know, we're the ones that are suffering for it. Meanwhile, he's going to have another chance to live his life at some point. I mean, if he takes it upon himself to breach his probation, that's his own problem.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: But he has the option to walk in the community of [City 2] and work and sleep under a roof and enjoy the beauties that life has to offer.

And one of the sad things about it is just last year I had ran into a woman at Pizza Delight in Stephenville. And my mother was a part of the Pathfinders. She dropped out of school and she just didn't like the environment of the people she was with. She was kind of
like myself, an old soul. And this woman approached me and she said, "I have something that I think you would like to see." Now, I never met this woman before. And she had -- she introduced herself [Employee]. So she gave me her information and I gave her a call and she told me to come up to her house and she wanted to show me something. Now, it's been -- you know, this was last year. I'll be 25 next month. So I mean, after my mom passed away there wasn't a single video of my mother. I didn't know what -- you know, I couldn't remember what my mother's voice sounded like or anything like that which is, you know, very unfortunate because, you know, even hearing a voice sometimes can help bring closure to any open wounds.

So I sat down and she did this -- Pathfinders had a -- a program going at the time for people doing -- you know, they'd go around videotaping, making commercials and such. So my mother was actually a very intelligent woman. She strived to -- even, you know, in Pathfinders, I mean, people told me that, you know, they couldn't keep her going with work. She was very intelligent. She was always on top of her -- on top of her A game so to say. And they did this commercial of people who were successful. And they wanted to do a story on her kind of like what the NLTA did with me. I did a commercial for it so, you know, like I said, I'm walking in her exact
footsteps.

And you know, this video had incorporated her life goals and in that video I was only a couple months old so it showed her playing with me and talking to me and so, I mean, that was the first time I'd heard my mother's voice since the murder. And you know, in this video she had -- she had stressed, you know, how much that she -- she really enjoyed school and she wanted to excel in everything that she did because she wanted to go to law school to become a lawyer. Now, I mean, as far as I'm concerned that is a very hard thing to get into. You have to, you know, work extremely hard to make that happen but it's an excellent career. And this is what she had her heart set out to be.

And when the video was over, this woman had told me that my mother had took a break from Pathfinders when she had me. And just when I was getting to that age, you know, three, four, she was going to go back to Pathfinders and she was going to finish and she was going to, you know, apply for law school. So in order for her to get the funding and whatnot, she had to have a letter from [Employee] saying -- [Employee] was the girl who brought me in for the video. She had to have a letter from [Employee] saying that she was accept back into Pathfinders. [Employee] was set to go to PEI for a trip so my mom had
called [Employee], told her, she said, "Yeah, I'll type of the letter." She said, "I'll leave it at the desk." She said, "I'm leaving for PEI tomorrow. Come down and get your letter." That letter was never picked up. [Employee] typed up that letter, left it at the school. She -- by the time she got in PEI, that was when the murder happened to my mom. My mom never made it to the school to pick up that letter.

And you know, that's -- you know, that's very disappointing. It's very sad because she had the potential to be a lawyer. She had -- she could have done anything that she ever wanted to be and she didn't make it there.

So I think for me I -- I think, you know, with regards to the murder I think that was probably the hardest part that I had to listen to was the fact that she never did, you know, get to make it that far. You know, she -- like, a lot of the, you know, missing and murdered indigenous women, I mean, for every murder that's -- you know, for every woman that's murdered, I mean, that's a future that's lost. You know, there are a lot of intelligent women that could have been doing amazing things to this community and, you know, this world.

**MS. CHANELO BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENoit:** But they're not here.
And she was definitely one of them. I mean, she wanted to be in -- in the legal system. You know, she wanted to better her life so that she could give us a better life. And you know, she -- because of that, I mean, you know, she -- she was murdered and all her potential is gone. And where is the punishment for that? Like I said, you know, the guy that's responsible for this, he still has the opportunity to work. Now, it may not be a position as a lawyer or something like that but he still has that, you know, that right. And you know, that was very difficult to listen to, you know, the fact that she never did make it to pick up that letter. I mean, she had won awards in school for academic excellence and everything. And you know, what -- when she finally, you know, felt that her life was coming around and that she was able to go back to school. You know, she had this letter typed up for her acceptance and she was looking forward to going back and she was murdered and that letter was forever left on that desk.

It's -- you know, my life was very difficult growing up because after that murder took place we were -- we were placed in foster care so I still didn't completely understand the fact of, you know, what had happened to my mother because I remember often times, you know, even though I did witness my father murder my mother, I -- as a four year old, you just want to be with your parents. You
know, I remember, you know, crying for my father even though he committed that murder and I witnessed it. And it terrified me but the body's natural response is that you want your parents at that age. I mean, you're trying -- you're being put into a home with strangers that you've never met before. And you know, it's a scary time. And --

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Were you and your sister placed together?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** We were placed together.

You know, I went there shortly after she did. I guess because I was in so much questioning and stuff like that. But the home -- the first home that we were placed in, they didn't really -- as far as I'm concerned, they shouldn't have had a foster care license because we weren't properly looked after. You know, my first Christmas in a foster home -- you know, when I was living with my mother, I mean, she always made sure that we had, you know, everything we ever wanted. I mean, you know, she -- she was never a rich woman but she would have sold the shirt off her back if it meant putting a train under the tree for Christmas, you know.

And my first Christmas in that foster home, we received all second hand toys. And I can understand that, you know, we weren't theirs. However, they were
being paid for us so why is it that we had toys that were just basically beat up and used and like we were nothing.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So under -- also while we were under the care of that home, my sister had took sick. And she was very sick. It started off as just a regular flu but, you know, there's no reason why you shouldn't take a year and a half old to the doctor and get it checked out. They neglected it so much to the point where my grandmother decided to take her and go to the hospital and get it checked out. And it turns out that my sister had severe pneumonia. And it was that severe that by the time the doctors had realized it was in one lung, they airlifted her to St. Johns and it spread to the second lung and she was fighting for her life. So yeah, she -- she spent a couple -- I -- I'd say probably well over a month she was in St. Johns, you know. She was -- she was to the point where they almost lost her. So not only did I lose my mother, you know, within that same year my sister was fighting for her life as well and it was just me. My grandmother was in St. Johns, you know, with my sister. You know, I was with this family that I never knew who never, like, never properly took care of me.

So after that had happened to my sister and she, you know, miraculously made a recovery, my grandmother
automatically got custody of my sister. Now, I was still
placed under the same care as that family. I was there for
a little while after before my grandmother went to the
courts and -- because that was my grandmother's wish --
that was my mother's wish and my mother told my grandmother
often times that she was going to -- she was going to die
and that she wanted us to be placed with her. She told --
she told my grandmother that multiple times. She knew she
was going to die. She -- she was not going to live a full
life.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: By the hands of your ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yeah.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- of ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: She -- she knew. And I
don't know if she accepted it but she knew it was coming.
So when we were placed in -- when -- when I finally got in
custody with my grandmother, I mean, it was -- you know, it
was a bit much for my grandmother to handle because, you
know, obviously growing up I went through this, you know,
the stress of dealing with what I had witnessed and it took
me a -- a really long time to grow out of the things that I
had seen. You know, often times I remember from when I got
with my grandmother right up until I was probably in about
Grade 9, I couldn't even so much as look at a picture of my
mother without throwing up because I was that -- you know,
every time I seen a picture of her I would automatically think back to the murder and I would get sick.

But just the stress of, you know, the things I was going through became too much for my grandmother so I was placed into another home. And I was there for a short period of time. Back with my grandmother. Something would flare up and then I was placed with another foster home out in Lourdes which I stayed until I was, you know, graduated high school and went to university.

But you know, there's always -- you know, even growing up, I mean, right now, you know, I'm not crying because of the murder. You know, the thing that broke my heart the most was that letter with the lawyer because I'm -- you know, right here, right now I'm the same age that she was when she lost her life. So aside from that, you know, there were a lot of things in life, you know, growing up in that -- in the foster home that, you know, I never -- you know, I never got to experience like the other kids that I grew up with. I mean, there were -- there were times where sporting events, I never had parents on the sidelines watching me. You know, concerts, there were nobody in the stands, you know, waiting or clapping or just happy to see me. Kindergarten graduations, you know. My Grade 12 graduation, confirmation, birth of my son, my wedding. I mean, she's not going to be there for any of
So it -- you know, it is upsetting, you know, and that was one of the things that I had to learn to cope with and accept was that, you know, for the longest time I held myself responsible, believe it or not. I mean, I was four years old but I held myself responsible because I stood up and watched this happen. And no, there was nothing that I could have done at four years old, which, you know, anybody would agree with me. And -- but it took me a long time to accept that fact. And it was only I'd say probably back in Grade 12, maybe Grade 11 was when I finally got a hold of everything that has happened and I was able to sit down like I'm sitting here today and, you know, being able to share my story and do public events and, you know, really, you know, shed some light on, you know, the struggles that can come from these incidents and, you know, the type of lifestyle that I had to live because of somebody else's anger and stupidity is what I like to call it.

But you know, it hasn't been an easy road, you know. Even now, you know, I try and incorporate my mother with, you know, in a positive aspect with everything that I do. You know, I try and do as many events like this as possible, as many speeches, because when I first started doing this, the amount of people that reached out to me and
thanked me and told me their story when they'd never told
anybody else was unbelievable. And some of the things that
I had sat down and read were, you know, some of them were
probably just as bad as what happened to my mother and some
of them, you know, were minor stuff. But people looked at
them in a different way. And you know, I took time, you
know, for weeks I -- you know, I took time to send off an
email or, you know, just to speak with these individuals
and, you know, share with them my experiences and how I
grew out of it and the things I learned to accept to try
and make it a little bit easier on them because a lot of
people are scared. And it may be because, you know, they
hear stories like mine and they realize that yeah, these
people are being released and it's not over for us because
some offenders get out of jail and they're pissed off
because, you know, somebody gave a statement and they feel
that they've put them in there for longer so when they get
out of jail, they're going to go back and target them. And
a lot of people won't give a statement because of that.

And it's unfortunate, they -- you know, they
shouldn't have to feel that way.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: They should feel secure
that they're being protected and that they can trust ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Exactly.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- law enforcement. I
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: For me, I always felt like the offender was being protected. It wasn't so much the victims that were being protected. It was always the offender. I mean, if you call them and asked them any information, if he's being released, well, "Where is he being released to?" "Well, I can't tell you that. Well, he's going out on a -- a temporary escorted absence." "Where to?"

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: "We can't tell you that." "He breached his probation." "What did he do?" "I can't tell you that either." "What can you tell me?" Right? "Why can't you tell me this?"

Like, I -- I should have some sort of a legal right to understand where it is that this man is to, who he's in contact with, the things that he's doing because that will secure my safety. Because if he's in contact with somebody, say, he knows somebody from Newfoundland and ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Does he know that you live in Newfoundland?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Chances are. There's not a doubt in my mind. I mean, if he knows somebody from Newfoundland and they decided to take a trip over to
Vancouver and all of a sudden, you know, they reach out to him, shouldn't I know who he's in contact with? Because that person's going to come back here, you know. When I was working offshore, one of my biggest fears for the longest time was that, you know, when I leave I was gone for a month at a time. You know, was there somebody there taking pictures of my family or could possibly harm my family while I was gone? And the last thing I ever want to do is have my family subject to the same things that I was subject to growing up. I mean, that was one of the promises that I made to them was that I was never going to put them in -- you know, in a -- in any event that would cause them to live with the same things that I lived with because it -- it's very, very -- it was very difficult.

You know, I've -- you know, I've always strived to be the best individual that I can be. Right now, I'm -- you know, I'm finally in the -- the final stages of becoming a police officer which is, you know, beyond what most people who've dealt with what I've dealt with ever make it to.

And you know, I've stressed to people many times because I'll do a public speech and people will come up to me and, you know, they'll either ask me how do I do it or they'll say, like, you know, "I wish I could take your pain away." Or something like that. And the reality
of it is, you know, I'm very upset with what happened to my mother and I wish that she could still be here today to, you know, see me accomplish the things that I've accomplished and, you know, be there with my son. But you know, I can't change the things that have happened. And you know, as much as I wish that she could be there, you know, I'm glad that it happened to me because I had the mental strength to work through it. Anybody else, and I mean there are a lot of strong people but there are a lot of weak people as well. And this is nothing against them, I mean, but some people, you know, take their own lives or they go down the wrong paths in life because they, you know, need drugs to either help them forget what has happened or, you know, whatever -- you know, for them I guess it's a matter of finding their comfort. It may not necessarily be the right way but, you know, if it didn't happen to me it would have happened to another woman. And if there was another child involved, I mean, that child could have possibly be harmed or harm themselves. So I mean, by it happening to me and the fact that I was able to overcome this and accomplish great things, yeah, you know, in one sense I'm thankful that, you know, I was as strong as I was and that my mother gave me the life that she did before she parted because, you know, there's no doubt in my mind that other people may not have handled it the same way
that I had.

But all I can do now is continue to spread the word for violence against women and continue to share the story of my mother and my journey through life and everything that I've done and overcome. And the story of my mother is not a very pleasant story. You know, I've learned to basically tell it now with a straight face and, you know, go home and play with my son. But the reality of it is it's very graphic, it's very horrifying, it's -- you know, and it's difficult to speak about, you know, especially to people who, you know, look at me, I mean, they see me for the first time and they don't ever expect that something like that has happened to me because it's the way that I carry myself. I'm a very -- I love to consider myself as well put together and, you know, cool, calm and collected. But, you know, they sit down and they hear this story and it's -- you know, they never in a million years would have imagined that something so severe would have happened to me but, I mean, that's just my story. I mean, there are so many other people with women who have it a lot worse than what I have it right now.

And this stuff will -- you know, we're trying to prevent it as much as we can. We're trying to put so many things in place to protect women and children but that has -- you know, we can only do so much as
individuals. You know, the justice system itself needs to be adjusted so that what we do works with the justice system. Because right now it's almost as if they're working against us because no matter what we put in place, yeah, they're going to put these -- you know, these offenders in jail for a short period of time and then they're going to be released back to us and then it becomes our problem again. And then you're jeopardizing the lives of other people.

If that don't change, you know, this whole -- you know, every woman that goes missing, that goes murdered, that's going to continue to happen for years to come. There's going to be no way to prevent that unless there are stiffer sentences put in place and, you know, better precautions put in place for the families.

And every time I've done a speech before, you know, it's important that as many people come forward as possible because, I mean, these stories are what -- you know, it's what's going to benefit, you know, trying to make this happen, because if we don't talk about the stories of these women, you know, they're forgotten. If they're forgotten and their stories are forgotten, what do we have to come back on? You know, what do we have as proof or evidence that, you know, these are the effects of what has happened and this is what's going to continue to
happen for years to come?

A lot of the articles that I've read, you know, from, you know, people who've had murders and stuff like that is that when the offenders are released, often times they reoffend. And I mean, that's something that should be picked up before they're released. I mean, if you're sitting down with -- with a designated professional in their field you should be able to know somebody's psychological, you know, stability ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- and know if they're going to, you know, reoffend or if they're actually, you know, a new man and can be within the public. And I don't think that it's being done that way. I think that they're just -- they're sitting down. They may have a short conversation with these individuals and, I mean, if you're good at talking ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah, if you're charming and...

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: You know? I mean, you're just going to -- they're going to continue to be fooled. It's wasted resources. I mean, you're paying these people the biggest kind of money to sit down and make sure that these people are properly evaluated. And all of a sudden you get a report saying that they breached their
probation and it's all because of these reasons and they're
going back in for psychological assessments, but shouldn't
that have ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Happened before.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yeah. I mean, like I
said, it's extremely wasted resources and it's unbelievable
that it continues to happen. I mean, how many times does
this need to happen again and again and again before they
finally get a hold on something and say, "Okay, like, you
know, this needs to be put in place and, you know, you're
going away for X number of years." I mean, like, in my
father's case, I mean, this has been the third time. The
third time that he's been released and put back in jail for
six months at a time, a year at a time.

You know, right now I know he was only going
to be put back behind bars for a month and then he was
going to be re-evaluated, probably put back into a halfway
house with more probation ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Like, how much can
things change in a month, you know ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yeah.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- with this history?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And that's the thing,
it's not going to change. I mean, you know, he's been, you
know, in prison since I was a young child. If anything was
going to change it would have -- it would have been changed by now. But the fact that he went right back to his original ways shows that, you know, chances are he is never going to change as an individual.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Which, you know, I can't say I -- I agree on whatsoever. You know, I think that -- and like I said, one of the most important things that, you know, I think can be taken from this video is the fact that, you know, the punishment should go beyond just the -- the crime. It should go for those who are affected. I think that there should be, especially if they're being sentenced to years, I think that they should look at the victim statements and how they were impacted and how their lives were impacted and they should place, you know, a number of years, you know, because of that.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Because it's not fair to the families. I mean, the families go through a lot of pain and struggling every single day. And I mean, that's for those who, you know, like my mother who, you know, her body was found in a house and, you know, I was there to -- as a witness. I knew what happened. The person was arrested. But I mean, there are a lot of indigenous women who are murdered and missing and families go without even
having a grave to look at because they're still in search of their daughter or, you know, their mother or whatever the case may be.

I mean, for instance, I mean, I don't know if they're indigenous or not but there are two women here in Newfoundland, Courtney Lake (ph.) and Jennifer Hillier (ph.) and they have been missing and have never been found.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Is this recent because I think I saw the posters in town?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Jennifer Hillier has been missing for about 18 months or so.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** And she went missing in St. Johns?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** St. Anthony.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** They're -- you know, I can't too much. There has been a publication ban on it so I'm ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Right.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- not going to say a whole lot about the issue. There were suspicions that she was murdered by her partner but I can't say that for sure. I don't know about the story. And the same with Courtney Lake. You know, they have videos of her getting into her boyfriend's vehicle and she went missing and then, you
know, her boyfriend ended up committing suicide so the only
lead that they had onto it is gone. And her family are
still searching for this body.

So for me, and like I said, with a lot of
indigenous people, I mean, I'm fortunate enough now that,
you know, I can go to a grave and lay flowers and know that
my mother's remains are in a very peaceful place which
brings me peace in -- of mind because I know that she's
there.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** But how many people are
still left, you know, wondering where their mother is to or
where their daughter is to? And, you know, I mean she
could be back in a field, you know, tossed like a piece of
garbage which is not -- it's not right at all.

So I mean, yes, what I had witnessed was
terrible and it -- it -- and it hurt for a long period of
time, but I'm sure that the people who have yet to find
some closure, I'm sure they're dealing with a lot more than
what I'm dealing with right -- you know, or what I dealt
with. I can't say what I'm dealing with now because, you
know, I've took on a life of my own and I'm doing
everything I can to live the life I know she would have
wanted me to live. But I think -- I feel for the people
who don't have the closure that I have.
And you know, I think -- I mean, like I said with Courtney Lake and Jennifer Hillier, I mean, that's just two ladies -- or two women in Newfoundland that have not been found yet. I mean, there's been a couple that I've heard of in -- in the news that have been found. But the sentences that are being handed are very minimal and they don't fit the crime at all.

And I mean, it really -- it really does have to change and the question is, I mean, how many people have to come forward and tell their story before this takes place? And I -- I think back to the judge that sentenced my father was saying as little as ten years and -- but she'll give him 14 instead. I mean, if that was her daughter ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- would she have given the same sentence? So -- so like, where does fair come into play with this? I mean, how do you justify 14 years? What's the reason?

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Did you feel that race had something to do with it or you felt like it was more --

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** My mother was actually a white individual.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay.
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And my father was, you know, African American. My mother was, you know, a very light skinned woman. But -- so I can't say that race was an issue. I -- I don't know if maybe -- to be honest, I can't pinpoint a specific reason as to why. I don't know if maybe it was because my mother wasn't, you know, a wealthy individual or well known. I mean ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: So maybe more class and ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And that could be it too, right. I -- I mean, you know, she was a -- I can't say my mother was a low class individual by any means because, I mean, she -- you know, she made do with what she had, but ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- you know, she was a -- I guess she was a hard case growing up and, you know, she had two kids and, I mean, maybe the judge just didn't take it very seriously because, you know, maybe she didn't -- didn't, you know, respect the fact of my mother's age or ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I -- I really can't say for sure what it had been, but you know, 14 years was a -- was a slap in the face to our family. It -- it really was.
And even until today, I mean, yes, as of right now he is still in prison, but he do get released on day parole.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Day parole to some, I mean, yes, you do have your restrictions but he is still released. So ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** He's in the world and he's ---

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** It's -- you know, the crime itself, I mean, there -- I mean, within this national inquiry, I mean, you're probably going to have people that have had a hell of a lot more, you know, trauma than what my mother endured but, you know, she went out in a very tragic way. And you know, it's a -- it's a picture that will forever be in my head. It no longer -- I don't think about it unless there comes a time when I'm doing an event like this where I need to go back to that particular night, but you know, I mean, to do something that -- that inhumane to, you know, a young woman and beat her to the point where she can't even be identified, you know, with your child watching you, and you know, have the rights to work, to go out to a restaurant, to be in another relationship, possibly have another kid. I mean, he has no -- everybody has potential but he does not have the potential that she had. I mean, I would have loved to have seen what my
mother would have been able to accomplish. There's not a
doubt in my mind that, you know, she probably would have
been a lawyer today. But you know, she's not. So it's --
it's upsetting to that extent and I'm -- that it's -- you
know, I hope that with all of this there comes a time where
somebody gets the right sentence and I can say that, you
know, this is what we've been waiting for for a long time.
It don't even have to be my father because I know that his
time is -- his time is done now but I would like to see --
I -- I don't' wish any crime on any woman ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- or child or man or
anything like that, but in the event that a crime would
occur that's similar to what happened to my mother or
anything whatsoever, I would like to see once that somebody
got a hard enough sentence that the family will never have
to worry about it ever again.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: And for you that would
be, like, a life sentence?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yes.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: So that ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: But ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- they're locked up.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: But an actual life
sentence. Because the life sentence in Canada now is 25
years. So you know, if you look at the fact that right now I'm almost 25. If I go and commit a murder, I get the life sentence of 25 years, it's going to be a lot less than that ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** You're 50.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** I'm -- I'm going to get, you know, good behaviour, that sentence is going to knock down.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** I'm out again before I'm 50 which is younger than what most people retire. So how is that a life sentence? I mean ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- that does not make any sense to me whatsoever. I mean, life sentence should be that your life right from, you know, the day that you get in there to the day you take your last breath is within that penitentiary.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Life is not 25 years. Twenty-five years from now I'll be 50. I won't even be retired. I hope that I'll be in good shape still but the reality of it is I'll still be a man who can go out and enjoy life.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: That's not a life sentence. A life sentence means that you took a life and now you pay with yours. You'll spend the rest of your life in this penitentiary until you take your last breath. You shouldn't have the same rights as anybody else.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I mean, you took it upon yourself to take the life of an individual. By them releasing, you know, my father out to the public, you know, my mother lost her life and she lost every bit of potential. You know, she never got to see us grow up. She never got to see her grandchild. And they're trying to say that that's a fair -- like, my mother was kind of wiped away like she was -- she was nothing, right.

And it should be a life for a life. I mean, I'm not saying, you know, bring in the death sentence and, you know, give somebody a lethal injection but if you're going to put the definition of life on a sentence, make it life.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Twenty-five years is a sentence. You can sentence somebody for 25 years, you know. If -- I could have done a crime hard enough when I was 20 and I'm still out at a young age.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I mean, but that's where I -- where, like I said, you know, if -- if you're going to sentence somebody, I think the crime should be taken into account, the severity of the crime, how a crime was conducted.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Because, you know ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: And the effects on the victims.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: The effects on the victim is definitely the most -- well, I couldn't say -- I can't say it's the most important because the initial sentence is definitely the most important because it was a crime committed against the individual. However, there are individuals who are going to live with that for the rest of their lives. So there should be something put in place for that. There should be punishment because, you know, right now, I mean, while I go to a graveyard to visit my mother this man has -- can just go and visit his family. I don't know if his mother is still alive. He may be able to see his mother. I don't know.

So like, while this man has the right to go see his mother after committing such a horrible crime, for me, I have to go and, you know, bring my son up to a graveyard and lay a flower next to a headstone and, you
know, speak to a stone that can't speak back and just hope that something is being heard, which, you know, I didn't do anything to deserve that. She didn't do anything to deserve that. Our family didn't do anything to deserve that.

But that's what we get in return. We have to live with the loss that we've suffered and we also have to try and live with this man who could possibly come back and pose a threat to us. We don't know where, we don't know when and we don't know how. But as long as that man walks in the community, that potential is there. And it's -- it may not be with my family. Like I said, he already targeted one woman and spoke with many, but you know, other women have the -- you know, they can possibly be severely harmed by the same individual. So I think that all the system is doing is setting the community up for further crimes that have already been committed.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: I know that in the United States, for instance, if you are, like, a sexual offender you're then on a registry and then you have to go and introduce yourself to your neighbours and that kind of thing, which is still, like, a very, you know, you're still able to be out in the community. Are there any similar restrictions once he is free and ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: You know, I ---
MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- would there be any - - like, is there any way that other people would know about what he had done if you hadn't, for instance, been on CBC and ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And that's the thing, like, had I not made my story public, which is why I don't mind doing this because I know that, you know, I could have possibly saved that woman's life by putting my story out there because she was completely blindsided by this man who -- who -- who she had thought was somebody else.

So I think that if anybody is to be released, I think that there should be, you know, like -- like you said, a registry. Something that somebody can go on a look. So I mean -- because you never know who you're dealing with but now a lot of people can come off and tell you a name that don't even exist. I mean, he did that already ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: True. Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- so how do you -- you can be on a registry but if I come to you today and say that my name is, you know, Marcus ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- you know, I'm moving here from Saskatchewan ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- well, that's not, you know, Dale Ogden that's on the registry. You know, this girl was under the impression that he was a different name, he worked security. She didn't know. I think the only -- and I don't know what you would be able to put in place to stop that because anybody can tell you false information. I don't know if there's a way that, you know, it -- I can't even say that on camera because that just don't sound -- that just don't right.

There should be something or some way somehow that even if it's so much as a -- a tattoo with a -- with a number ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- to identify this individual because, you know, you can never prevent somebody from lying about their true self. And I think that's one of the most difficult things when it comes to offenders is people who have been involved with crime, often times they know what it's going to take to hide the crimes that weren't detected.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: They know how to sweet talk individuals. And I mean, they've done it before. I mean, you know, my father could have walked in this room right now and sat down like I'm sitting here and talked to
you as if he was a different man, a different name and
never committed what he committed.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So like, that's why I
can't say that I agree with the release of any murderer. I
mean, if it's something severe like what my father did,
there's no excuse for why they should be released to the
public. If it's something accidental, if you're -- if
you're in a fight with somebody, and not saying if it's
with a man or a woman now, like, if I'm in a fight with
another man and, you know, somebody gets hit and he falls
back and smacks his head on a curb and ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- he passes because of
his injury, well, that's something that yes, it's severe
because you -- you are responsible for that death.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: However, you didn't
intent -- you know, when -- anybody that fights, they don't
have intentions to kill somebody unless they're using
weapons. If you're in a fist fight and somebody falls back
and hits their head and they die, well, you know what, you
were never under the intentions on killing that individual.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So if they go to jail
and they serve a couple years and they still live, you know, with regret for what they did then, yeah, that means that they've actually felt for the crime that they've committed and, you know, they -- they were never -- they never had murderous intentions.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Right. They don't pose a threat for the future. It kind of -- it was accidental in a sense.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** But this man had planned out what he was doing.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** He knew when he was going to do it. He told me numerous times. My mother was scared for her life. I mean, she -- she used to have the windows and everything barred in the house just so that he couldn't get in through the windows.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** And so he -- he just came through the door?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** He came in through the door. So he had this planned. And I mean, if you're going to do something like that, he did it in a sense -- by beating someone to death, it's not quick. It's not like you're walking up to somebody and shooting them point blank and it's over and done with, they don't -- you know, obviously, you know, a gunshot wound is definitely fast and
you would pray that they don't suffer because it's so blunt and so fast, but it would take a man with severe mental issues to beat somebody to death, because you don't die instantly. You have to enjoy doing that because, I mean, how do you beat somebody to the last breath that they have in their body which could take a long time depending if you're using, you know, a weapon or your own bare hands.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** I mean, that's not something that's instant. That's something that takes time for somebody's strength and, you know, life to leave their body. So I mean, he enjoyed what he was doing. You know, an axe of all weapons to use, you know, to beat my mother so badly to -- and even for me to have listened to those sounds, those screams, cries, you know, and for him to completely act as if nothing happened with no -- no regret. No ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Remorse or ---

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Nothing. He enjoyed what he did. And there's not a doubt in my mind that if he's released in the community that there's going to come a day where this is going to happen again. And I'm sure it's the same with most offenders who commit a severe crime like that. If you can plan out a crime, you can do it again. They had the intentions on doing it the first time.
You know, it's something that, you know, some people are just born a natural cold blooded killer. You can't change their intentions. You can't change their mindset no matter how many years you put behind bars. I mean, if you look at a drug addict, I mean, they can be sober for years and the minute that they get the opportunity, I mean, some people are strong enough to say no but there are some people that will relapse ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- and they will be even worse than what they were before they started. And as far as I'm concerned, that is the same as a murderer. They will be released in the community and my father had a taste of what it was like to get back into his own ways. He had a woman basically eating out of the palm of his hand, which is exactly what he wanted.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** And he was treating her in a very controlling way and repeating, you know, like -- repeating the patterns of, you know, your mother's experience of having this controlling person who, you know, like, it was -- he seemed to be grooming this new woman and then ---

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** He was basically leading her right up to her -- to her own death. He was -- if I was a betting man I'd say he was probably plotting that in
his head, because if he would have got even more connected, if my story didn't go national and it -- I mean, she probably would have went a long period of time. The relationship may have worked out. Then he may have got more so on the controlling side and she -- you know, she probably would have tried to have left the relationship like my mother tried to do and that's where things spark. Because if he gets it in his mindset like he got in with my mother basically, "If I can't have you, nobody's going to have you."

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So you know, that may have taken a year. May have taken a month. You know, who's to say? I mean, one of the things I got nervous of when the story went national and she met with him was what was he going to do to her then.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: You know, that's another thing too, right. I mean, you know, it's one thing that, you know, I exposed him to the public but it was another thing that she was still with him during that time.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So I mean, if he got really angry, I mean, she's lucky she got out of there when she did. I mean -- I mean, they were in restaurant
setting. I mean, what would have happened if she would have been in her house and they were having supper at her house?

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** So this is when, like, she confronted him about it?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Yeah.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** So I mean, you know, they were in a public area but what if they weren't in a public area? What if they were ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- say on a nature trail or at her house or somewhere remote? You know, I'm sure he probably would have disposed of that woman so that she wouldn't expose him.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** You know, anymore than what he -- what he already was. That's what -- you know, and I -- I still feel for this woman because, you know, if he was actually falling for her, I mean, he -- that was his recent relationship after being in prison for so many years. I mean, what's his mindset now? You know, how does this woman feel? I mean, she's living -- right now I'm sure that she's living the same fear as what my mother feared.
MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And it was because of a dating website. And that's another thing that most women have to worry about now is dating websites.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Anybody can go on and make a fake account. You know, falsify information and you're basically setting yourself up for something like that to happen. I mean, you know, he was -- he was an offender with a serious murder charge, got on this site, played innocent. You know, women are -- you know, who are looking for relationships, I mean, a lot of people do seek dating sites. But you should have faith in these sites that you're protected, that the people who are on these sites are innocent ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Who they say they are.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- individuals. Yeah. And who they are. But you know, she -- she found out the hard way and it could have been a lot worse. It -- it could have been a lot worse. And that's just one individual. I mean, that's just my story. I mean, how many other people are going through the exact same thing, if not, worse where it goes undetected? And we would never have had to deal with this if those people were put where they need to be and left where they need to be.
But I don't know -- that's the biggest change that I would like to see. And that's the one that I can stress the most is proper sentencing. Because people look at it now as a joke. Any kind of crime that's committed is a joke. I mean, I'm going into police work so I'm going to see a lot more of it as I, you know, move along as my journey as a police officer. However, in my community alone, you know, there's a lot of petty crimes that are going on. But you know, most of the guys who commit these crimes, they're never caught. They're -- when they do get caught they get probation. You know, assault charges -- I mean, if you were to look at the court dockets for Stephenville, say, if you were to look at the number of assault charges placed on, you know, male individuals in Stephenville, it is -- it's frightening. A lot of the people that you know, some people you don't know, but there are numerous assault charges.

Now, that's just a start to something. I mean, you -- you take somebody to court, they're charged for assault, you let them go on probation, they go back after the individual who pressed charges because they're pissed off ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- or they still like them. The next time around they get back, they have more
assault charges, they get released again. You know, how long does that go on before the individual finally snaps and takes the life of that woman so that she can't press charges on him no more? Now he's going to be charged with a crime, obviously, but you know, if I go back in the woods and I shoot the wrong sex of an animal while I'm hunting, I -- and I stumble across a warden, you know, I get 20 years in jail for it. However, if I shoot the warden that caught me, I get less time for it. That's the reality of it.

You know, people see the -- like, the -- people see the crimes and the punishment as a joke. Unless you put something in place that's going to seriously scare individuals and say, "You know what, I'm not doing that because I'm not dealing with -- with this"

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** "you know, punishment" people are just going to continue to do it. They're going to continue to do it over and over and over again no matter if it's murder, impaired driving, assault charges, you name it. Until something gets put in place that's going to tell people no, like, I'm -- you know, that scares them, they're only going to look at it as a joke. They're going to continue to do it. They're not going to care who it's to or who it affects because they know that -- -- I mean, I've heard people, you know, joke about it
before, like, you know, basically say, like, "Oh yeah, I'll
do this. I'll only get a slap on the wrist", or you know,
"I'll be out in a couple of years." That's how they look
at it.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** That's crazy.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** That's how a murderer is
going to look at it. You know, right now, I mean, what's
stopping somebody, you know, who absolutely hates somebody
and wants to see them, you know, off the face of this
earth? I mean, how are you going to scare somebody with
ten years?

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** You're not going to do
it. I mean, if you had a death sentence put in place, you
know, if you don't want to die yourself, you would take
somebody else's life. Well, yeah, you may not want to do
that. But if you do that and you get ten years, you know,
that's not very frightening especially if you have nothing
to lose. You know, if you're an individual who, say, came
out of a divorce and, you know, your ex-wife has gone on
with somebody else and, you know, you lost everything you
ever had and ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- you know, the
streets are the only place you have left, you know, that
wife may not be lucky. She may be in danger. In his eyes, what more does he have to lose? He's already at rock bottom.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** He's going to get ten years in jail and he's going to be released again. So this is where the problem is coming from, in my eyes, is that the -- the system is not -- the system is taking it too easy on offenders. You know, they're -- they should be -- there should be stricter, you know, a lot tougher sentences put in place to put fear in the individuals who are committing these crimes to stop it. And until that happens, you're going to see it every day.

Crime rate is going to continue to climb. You know, missing and murdered women are going to continue, you know, to come out because there is nothing put in place to tell people that they're not taking it lightly anymore.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** No. I have a question about -- so kind of in this vein, I was wondering if we could go back to the -- sorry, my mind is drawing a blank, but when your parents were separated or -- and your mother had a -- yeah, like, a restriction against your father. Like, a -- so can we talk about the incident that -- that caused that to happen? And also -- because I'm trying to get at, like, how -- how -- how this was even able to
occur. So kind of just, you know, who she reported it to, who put that on and ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: She hadn't initially -- like, I don't know what had led up to the restraining order other than the fact that, I mean, I -- my grandmother does have an album at home and there are pictures of her hugging me and my sister and she's bruised. She's, you know, black around the eyes. She looks like somebody who, you know, had a hard time. And I guess at that point it was when she -- you know, it -- it was probably around that timeframe where she may have just finally had enough.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And she knew that, you know, this time is getting very short now. And I guess because of us, I mean, she never wanted to leave us, you know. I mean, we were her kids. I mean, it was everything that she lived for.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So you know, I get she went to the courts and she got this restraining order put in place. But a restraining order is -- restraining order is a piece of a paper. I mean, regardless of which way that you look at it, I mean, yes, it's -- it's a way of the court saying that, you know, this person can't come within, you know, so many hundred feet of where you are too.
MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And that's fine, like --

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: But it's not -- you can't be, like, this is the piece of paper, you have to -- you know, it's -- if someone is going to not respect that because they're going -- they have the intention of ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Yes.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- ending someone's life, a piece of paper is not enough.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: You know, that night that he came in the house, I mean, my mother could have been standing there, like, showing him the piece of paper --

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- but I mean, the reality of it is, I mean, for a police officer to come from Stephenville to Port au Port, I mean, you're looking -- even if they're speeding, you're looking at ten, 15 minutes. I mean, that was the amount of time it took him to beat him to death. So what's a restraining order going to do? I mean, even if -- you know, I've had a restraining order put in place for family members before ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- but it's you can't
be within 500 feet of an individual. Well, a gunshot can go a lot further than 500 feet.

   **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah. And anyway, it's, like, you're going that far, it's ---

   **MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Yeah.

   **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** When she felt that she was being followed, did she report it, or?

   **MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** There were multiple times where, you know, I guess it wasn't within the boundaries of the restraining order from where the house was to the road but, I mean ---

   **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay. Yeah.

   **MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- numerous times, I mean, you know, she had, you know, told my grandmother or people that she knew that, you know, his car was driving up and down the road in the night time. I've seen it myself.

   **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

   **MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** You know, as a child. But you know, he was -- that's how he was. Like, he -- he struck fear into the people that he wanted to fear him.

   **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Right.

   **MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** You know, he knew that it was an intimidation factor. Like, you have a restraining order but I'm still going to be present, you know, where -- wherever you're to and wherever you're to,
MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- you will see me.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Do you have -- because the commissioners will be watching this, so in terms of the recommendations that you've suggested are presented, you know, with, like, stricter sentences, do you have kind of a recommendation that you would want to see put in place in terms -- and maybe in lieu of a restraining order or would there be, like, for instance -- like, one thing might be better support for when, you know, a restraining order is put in place but you feel that someone is following you that, like, you have the support and feel that you can go to someone and then maybe a different level of restrain be put in place or something like that?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I know that it can put more work on law enforcement agencies with restraining orders, you know, with people reporting it. But I think that a restraining order is more -- I think if they put in place, like -- like, I have no contact geographically with my -- with my father which means that he cannot be in any province to which I am.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I think that a restraining order should be -- like, my mother was living
in Port au Port at the time. He was living in Kippens.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: I think her restraining order should have restricted him from entering the town of Port au Port.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And if for any reason, say, you know, if I'm in Stephenville and I get a restraining order that prevents somebody from coming to Stephenville, I think you should alert the authorities when you -- if you have to go in for groceries or go in for work, you should alert them when you leave in the morning, say, "I'm -- I'm going to work." Call them when you get to work.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Call them when you leave work. Call them when you get home.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Because they'll know the time that it's going to take for each. If there's any gap in between that you didn't alert them, say you were stopping for something else that you didn't tell them, well, "Why didn't you report it?"

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: You know, I think that a
restraining order should prevent them from coming in the region to which they are. If they have to come in for work or something like that, like, I'm not saying you should stop somebody from working.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Right.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** But I'm saying that, you know, they should be reported, you know ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- that they're going to work and vice versa because at least then the person ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** So it -- so it would be the person who this restraining order is against that would be reporting?

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Yes.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Because I mean ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** And there can be, like, an app for that, for instance. It wouldn't have to be, like, necessarily -- and it could alert them.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** Exactly. I mean, that's the only way that, you know, the individual -- or the victim would feel somewhat safe. Because, like, for me I know for a fact that, you know, if he come -- if he crosses into a province to which I am, he's going to be locked up, you know. And it should be the same. Like, if I have a
restraining order against somebody in Stephenville, you
know, if they're not living in Stephenville and they decide
to take it upon themselves to come into Stephenville at two
o'clock in the morning and it's not reported, what are you
doing in Stephenville at two o'clock in the morning?

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Right? I mean, my
mother was murdered at night. What are you doing --
everything is closed.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So what are you doing
there? You know, I think that that is one direction that a
restraining order can go in that, you know, it's -- it's at
-- you know, all and all it's still not bullet proof
because, I mean, I know a lot of people out in my hometown,
I mean, they may just drive on into Stephenville, and I
mean, the police, unless they're looking for you or
somebody reports that they seen you, I mean, they could
drive into town and drive right back without being
detected.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: So I mean, it's -- it's
hard to pinpoint one area but I think that for one would be
a possibility because all in all the restraining order,
like you said, is, you know, is just a piece of paper. My
mother had one. It didn't prevent her from being murdered. I mean, he came right into the house.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** It wasn't like he had found her somewhere else or anything like that. I mean, he came right to where she lived. I mean there was no -- no restraining order, door lock or anything. The only thing that would stop was, you know, if a police officer would have been there waiting ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** --- waiting at the door, right. I mean, you know, if there were any suspicion that he was on his way, you know, there could have been a police officer present which could have arrested him on the scene and which possibly would have saved my mother's life that night. But there wasn't. And you know, she lost her life, you know, under a restraining order.

But all in all, I mean -- I mean, that's the main points that I can target here today. It's not to say that I won't think of anymore.

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

**MR. DANIEL BENOIT:** So -- because I mean, a lot of this stuff is -- you know, it's a lot to take in, it's a lot to talk about because you're reflecting on ---

**MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- you know, 20 -- 20 years of, you know, life experience and, you know, the murder itself. I mean, looking back on that, I mean, you know, you tell the story as -- as you remember it but there's a lot of life that ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- happened in 20 years that if I had to reflect on, I mean, I'd still be talking in this camera until next week. But I mean, the -- what I hit on today was the severity of my mother's murder and what I had witnessed and how it affected my life. My life after the fact and, you know, everything that's in the process right now with my actual father being released.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And you know, the things that I've noticed in the justice system that are -- that a lot of people don't detect because they don't have -- they have fear in them that they, you know, they're scared to ask for this information or they're being denied this information when really they have the legal right to have it.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And you know, some of them, like I said, are scared to give their statements. But you know, these are just some of the points that I've
hit on with my own experience. And you know, like I --
like I said earlier, my hope is that one day that somebody
is going to put in place, you know, sentences that are
actually going to put fear in other offenders that they're
not going to commit, you know, or another crime like that
ever again. Because I'm under every impression right now
that, I mean, my father being one of them, that, you know,
he has the potential of committing the same crime again.

And that's just one individual. You know, there are a lot more individuals who get away with murder, who -- you know, a lot of the women that are missing. I mean, how can you place a charge on somebody if you don't have a body to place a charge on.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: They're just out there.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: There's people, you know, in Newfoundland alone, there are people that have committed murders who walk -- they pass you on the side of the road and you would never know it, because somebody goes missing and their body is never found, so how do you say that this person murdered somebody? You know, some people are -- it's a -- it's a hard way to put it but some people are, like I said, natural born killers and they can commit a crime and hide it so well that they may never -- I mean, there could be 20 years go down the road before they find a trace of a -- a bone fragment and realize that that was for
the murder of this woman. Meanwhile, the individual lived
his life and he probably died a year ago and he went
amongst the community without even being detected as a
murderer.

But it's very -- it's very alarming. I
mean, you know, it's a scary place to live in where, you
know, people are going missing and, you know, obviously if
they're missing for a long period of time, I mean, there's
only other -- there's only one other thing you can assume.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: It's not that they ran
away because, you know, sometimes you'll -- if somebody ran
away, I mean, you may hear of a report somebody seen them
in Ontario or ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- Alberta or thought
they had seen them. But most people that go missing, they
go missing without a trace. And I mean, you can only
assume that they were murdered, kidnapped or -- but -- and
you -- you don't -- most of the times in Newfoundland, when
you hear of a woman that's gone missing, she's gone missing
without a trace. And it was often times the last person
she was involved with was her partner. Courtney Lake.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: It's -- it's not, like,
random. It's ---
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: No, it's ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- it's really ---

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- like ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: --- kind of like a domestic violence situation.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Jennifer Hillier, she went and stayed at her husband's place the day that she went missing. The night that she went missing she was at his house. Was never seen after that. Courtney Lake was last seen getting into her boyfriend's truck. Was never seen after that. Most of the men that go missing in Newfoundland, you'll hear tales -- people tell stories, "Well, they went out berry picking", or, "They went out hunting and never came back." And it turns out, well, like, recently there was a guy who, you know, went out berry picking or something and got lost and they found him in a river. He slipped and fell or something like that. But like, at least you find the bodies because ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- people know, like, okay ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: He was there.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- he went berry picking in this area.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Right.
MR. DANIEL BENOIT: But these women were last seen with these men and they were never seen again. And nobody seems to know anything about it. Like, that's what really -- it's either, you know, there are a lot of crimes that are going on that people are aware of and are too afraid to speak of it and it's hiding valuable information that can really make a difference and solve some of these cases.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Or they're just extremely good at what they do and they make do with these women and they're never found and no charges are ever laid. And I mean, that's just what I've seen, you know, so far. You know, it's frustrating to the -- you know, to the families. I mean, you know, I know these people would love to have closure. I mean ---

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: --- you know, it's one thing to not have anybody charged for a murder but it's one -- you know, it's another thing to not even have so much as a -- you know, a grave.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: And not know what happened.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: And not -- you know, I mean, most people, you know, even, you know, as dramatic as
the story may be, I mean, even if they knew the cause of
the death it sometimes just helps them out that much
because a lot of the people, they want to know if their
daughter or their mother suffered. Right? That's one of
the biggest things that you'll -- you know, anybody who
lost somebody or an accident or something like that, I
mean, the first question is, "Did they suffer?" Because
they want to -- they want to know. They want something to
hang onto or something to tell them, "Okay, well, no, he
didn't suffer so, you know, I can let that go now. I can --
I can start healing." But these people don't have
anything besides hope that they're going to stumble across
the slightest bit of information to just find them the
body, let alone a charge. But even if they don't find a
body, I mean, that murderer is still out there in the
community. The potential of another person going missing
in still there.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: It -- it's -- it's
frightening and it's only going to get worse, like, you
know, until something changes. You know, I'm under the
impression it's going to continue to get worse and, you
know, I just pray that nothing like that ever happens to
any of my family or friends. But it's a different world
that we live in now.
MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Yeah.

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: That's -- that's what I can -- that's mainly what I can talk about today.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay. Great. Is there anything else that you wanted to add, or?

MR. DANIEL BENOIT: Not that I'm aware of.

MS. CHANEL BLOUIN: Okay. All right. So let's stop now.

--- Upon adjourning on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Ashley Robertson, 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.

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Ashley Robertson

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November 6, 2018