National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Truth-Gathering Process

Part I Statement Gathering

Holiday Inn

Moncton, New Brunswick

PUBLIC

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Statement – Volume 533

Lornie & Pearlene Bonnell,

In relation to Geraldine Bonnell

Statement Gatherer: Kerrie Reay

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II

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**III**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Statement Volume 533**  
Lornie & Pearlene Bonnell  
October 20, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testimony of Nicole Abraham &amp; Pam Wiebe</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporter’s Certification</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement Gatherer: Kerrie Reay

Documents submitted with testimony: none.
Statement - Public

Lornie & Pearlene Bonnell
(Geraldine Bonnell)

Moncton, New Brunswick

--- Upon commencing on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 3:25 P.M.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So this is Kerrie Reay. I'm a statement taker with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and we are in Moncton, New Brunswick and the date is October the 20th, 2018 and the time is 3:25 P.M. Today I am speaking with Lornie Bonnell of the Burnt Church, First Nation and Lornie resides on the Burnt Church, First Nation reserve.

Lornie is here to tell her truth regarding the death of her sister, Geraldine Bonnell who was shot and her life was taken in the summer of 1974 at Boston, Massachusetts.

Also present in the room is Tiger, and that's T-I-G-E-R, and Bonnell, and for the record that is B as in Bob, U-N -- B-O?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Sorry. B-O-N as in Norman, N as in Norman, E-L-L. And I'd also like to spell Lornie's first name. It is L-O-R-N as in Norman, I-E. And Tiger is Lornie's daughter. And just for the record, Lornie, you are here voluntarily to provide your truth and you agree to the videotaping and audio taping ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yes.
MS. KERRIE REAY: --- of your truth? You also understand that at the end of the -- at your -- of your statement we'll come back to whether or not you would like the -- how you would like the inquiry to use your ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- truth today, whether it be public or private.

So Lornie, when you are comfortable and ready, I invite you to start talking.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Certainly. Okay.

Well, we lived here in Burnt Church since long and I was cleaning the floor and my aunt came over. She just lived a couple of houses down. And she came over and there was a knock on the door. And I was washing the floor as usual. And when my aunt came in my mom opened the door and she, "Yeah, what's going on?" And my aunt, in Indian, Mi'kmaq, said, "Geraldine don't [speaking in Mi'kmaq]." That means she's dead. And I couldn't understand Indian but when she said that I knew what she said. I don't know why.

And now I'll go over what happened. And she told her she got shot in a bar. And I was wondering, "What the hell is she doing in a bar where you can get shot? People don't get shot in a bar."

Anyway, it -- so what happened, Gilly (ph.) had an argument with her boyfriend. And we heard this from
[Person X]. That was her boyfriend's brother. He comes
down Burnt Church every summer. And he said that her and
[Geraldine’s Boyfriend] got into an argument so she walked
out of their apartment. And she went to this other bar
that they never go to. They either went to this bar or
that bar. Never that one. But she went there because she
knew [Geraldine’s Boyfriend] was going to come look for her
so she went to this bar.

And from what the cops told [Geraldine’s
Boyfriend], she was just going to leave the bar and that's
when the back guys busted in and they just blew her away
and they shot around the bar at other people. And they
shot another guy. He died. And another one but they only
got him in the shoulder. And the cops seen him walking
down the street bleeding and they told him, "What's going
on? What's happened?" And then he told them that there
was shooting a Diamond Junes (ph.). That was the name of
the bar then. And so the cops went there and they found
Geraldine on the floor and that other guy over there by the
bar dead. And that's as much as we know.

And she was only 27 years old.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** And how old were you at
the time?

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Twenty-two.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and you were saying
this was back in 1974?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And has there been any record shared with you about what happened ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- or your unanswered questions ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No, that's all he know what was written on that little piece of paper and what my mother told us. That's it.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: And what we heard from [Person X] because he lived in Boston and he knew what was going on because of his brother.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And -- and was your sister brought back to Canada?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And was there any -- so are there -- are there unanswered questions, like, do you know what happened to these ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: We want to know -- well, we used to want to know if she was targeted or it was just an act of violence. Like, we don't know.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So -- so there are lots of unanswered questions?
MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm. M'hm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And so -- so something like the police report, would that be helpful?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Now, it being in the States, I'm not really sure what we can and can't get but there's an organization in all of the provinces. It's called the Family Information Liaison Unit, and New Brunswick has one. And they're there to help families get those documents and -- but I'm not sure what the reach will be on the other side.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Because it's in another country, right?

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes. Yeah. And for the record, that was -- that was Tiger speaking. And you know, when it is in another country we're not really -- I'm not really sure what the process is but they will know. The people from FILU will know and they -- so I'll -- after we're done I'll get some information from you, some contacts, so that we can get to so that ---

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- so that we can see if there's a way to get some of the -- that information. Were you told anything about whether they caught the man?
MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Oh, yeah, it's on those -- that paper I was going to bring.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: They did catch them but they didn't give us any answers to why they picked that bar and why they shot who they shot. We don't know.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And are you aware of the prosecution and what happened in the States?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Were they convicted or ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No. We don't know nothing after that.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Wow, that's a long time to not have any answers.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I know.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Holy. Yeah. Okay. Well, we'll -- we'll certainly put you in touch to help see if we can get some of those answers for you. Okay. One of the -- one of the things is would you like to share with the Commissioners how that traumatic and horrible loss of your sister has affected you and your family? And did she have children or ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah, she did have -- her son just died a month ago maybe.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: In August.
MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Five weeks ago.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: August 14.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Wow.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Her son, she had one son living on the reserve. The -- he -- she had a daughter in Boston but she gave that up right from the hospital so we don't know her, we don't know anything.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So she was living in Boston ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- then for a while?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah. All her life practically. After she left Burnt Church she lived there the rest of her life.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And how -- how did -- can you share how that loss impacted your mom and -- and your family?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Well, my mom was a tough woman. Like, I really don't know. I couldn't see how it hurt her. Because me, I lived -- for a week after she got shot I lived in a daze. You know, all I did was clean house, [inaudible response] my mom [inaudible response]. And she said, "Lornie, stop. You have no right to feel that hard. Like, we can't bring her back." So
that did wake me up a bit and I was okay after that. And she said, "You got kids to take care of. Take care of them." My daughter.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** So grieving, do you feel — do you feel that you're still grieving?

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Oh, when I talk about her, yeah.

**MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Yeah.

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** But I don't talk about her much. It's not too often.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** And it -- and I mean, it's been a long time.

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** It's -- it's in here.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. Yeah. And so talking today, that -- that trauma is -- is coming back.

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Brings it back.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** It's coming back.

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** But once we're back on the road it'll be gone because I don't make it a -- to think about it too badly.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and her son -- so — so you were saying that she had a daughter that she gave up for adoption?

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** From the hospital, yeah.
MS. KERRIE REAY: And that was in -- in Massachusetts?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So there's a niece ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: A son she had in Burnt Church and she gave him to my aunt.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: And he was ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: That'd be her ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Personal Information] That's why she gave her [Geraldine’s Son]. And he was 51 I think. Yeah.


MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: He -- he would have been 51 this ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Oh, okay.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: --- November.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: He was the same age.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And how did -- and -- and how did he pass away?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: How did he ---
MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Liver failure.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I thought it was drowning? He fell in the water.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Officially.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: It's a liver failure.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: And he almost drowned to death but they pulled him out of the water, took him to the hospital, they revived him. He was in a coma for a week. He finally woke up, talked a little bit. Well, mumbled. He couldn't talk. And then he went back in and the doctors said his liver gave. He drank a lot. And he died two days later. Something like that.

MS. KERRIE REAY: How old was he when his mom passed away?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Holy, he was only ---

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Six, seven.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah, six or seven, yeah. He was young when she died. He didn't know her that well either though.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Because she was in Boston. He was home. But when she'd come down every summer to visit she would have a day with him.
MS. KERRIE REAY: And -- and did he ever talk about his feelings about ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- being raised by an aunt ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Oh, no. She gave him the best life. Yeah. She -- he was okay there.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And -- and did he share about how he felt about not having his mom around?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: His natural mom?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No, he never shared that with me. And when my -- when my sister died she had a ring and it said, "Love." And my mom went to Boston with my sister and she took her belongings. And when she came home she said, "Lornie, here, you keep this. This was Geraldine's ring." So I kept it. And when I -- and she showed it to me there was even blood still on it. And I kept that ring for the longest time. But when she became of age I told Tiger, "You wear this ring. This was Geraldine's." And she wore it. She even wore it out. She wore it right out. It broke. She's supposed to get that fixed. Anyway ---

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: We still have it.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.
MS. KERRIE REAY: That's nice.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: She's going to get it fixed. But that was like having a piece of her.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: And I gave it to [Geraldine’s Son].

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Oh, and she gave it to [Geraldine’s Son] because that was her (sic.) mom. [Geraldine’s Son], how long did he keep it? About month?

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Anyway, he brought it back and he told Tiger, "No, you keep this. I'll lose it." Because he drank too much. So Tiger kept it.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So -- so her son, [Geraldine’s Son]?

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: M'hm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: [Geraldine’s Son] had some challenges, some struggles growing up?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Would you like to share those with the Commission?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I wouldn't know them.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: But I know he had troubles because he drank too much, like, to be straight. Like, if he didn't have trouble he wouldn't have drank that
much. I think.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Right. And do you have other siblings as well?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Me? Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And how have they coped? How many siblings do you have?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: They were all okay. They're just like me I think. Same feelings. Whenever Geraldine's name came up you could see a little light go off, or whatever.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Is there anything else that you would like to share? You've come -- you've come a -- a distance. You've travelled for two hours. Some of the examples of things that the Commission and the Inquiry is looking at and the Commissioners are -- are interested in is the impacts of that inter-generational violence. And -- and I ask because you -- you talk about Tim's use of -- of substances and -- and the challenges. And one of the things that we see through the loss of a parent through experiences going to residential school or children who were taken during the 60s, and even today, you know, we're still seeing that ongoing -- the child welfare system taking children ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

MS. KERRIE REAY: [Rule 55].
MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Okay. And -- and where -- and what residential school did you ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Shubenacadie.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And was that far from Burnt Church?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Nova Scotia.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So that was quite a distance.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: How old were you when they ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Oh my God, I think I was five.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So very young.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Really young.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Very young.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And -- and how long did you go to school?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I thought it was four or five years but when we got that thing from them they said we were only there three years, so I don't know. My
mom always told us we were there five years. And we weren't allowed to come home on the summer time. Too far for them I guess. And they would put us in another reserve, another person's house that would take care of us.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Would you like to share any of those experiences with the ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I don't remember them. I don't -- the only time I remembered was when we had chicken pox. That's the only thing I remember, having chicken pox living in another reserve in Nova Scotia. But other than that, I don't remember where else we were sent.

MS. KERRIE REAY: No?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: [Rule 55].

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

MS. KERRIE REAY: [Rule 55].

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

MS. KERRIE REAY: That's okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh dear.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And so you were about eight or nine, maybe ten when you came home?
MS. LORNIE BONNELL: When we got home, yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And -- and you came back

to ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Burnt Church.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- Burnt Church?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And your parents were there?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Well, my mom. My dad lived in Sussex. They broke up or whatever you call it.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And coming back to your own reserve, how was that for you?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Different.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: It was, like,
different.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Can you describe how that was for you coming back after being gone for all those years?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Well, I -- that's how it was like. Because in Shubie (ph.) we weren't allowed to do anything.

MS. KERRIE REAY: No.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Anything. If you got caught talking in Indian they would put soap in your mouth,
stand you in the corner and you couldn't get out of that corner until that soap was gone. Yeah, it was a bad place.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And coming home, how was your mom? How was your mom doing when you ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Well, she was glad. She was glad we come home.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. And how did she cope when you were gone?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I don't know. [Personal Information]

MS. KERRIE REAY: Did she?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Take the pain away.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I don't know. But probably.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And then you grew up on the reserve?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. And how was growing up?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Pretty good.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: And ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Would you like to share ---
MS. LORNIE BONNELL: --- when I started having my kids, in my mind, I said, "Well, we went through Shubenacadie. My kids ain't going to know nothing about it." And I hardly ever talk about Shubie. And I brought my kids up pretty good. I am proud of myself.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Good. And so how many children do you have?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Five.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Five. I know one's a girl because Tiger -- Tiger is here with you.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: But my youngest one -- my youngest one, [Daughter], she's the girl too.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Three boys in the middle.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So Tiger is your oldest.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And how -- things are good for you now?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Good. Was there anything else that you would like to share? Any insights of what it's like in terms of what you see on the reserve with child welfare or policing? These are all areas that the
Commission -- Commissioners are interested in.

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Well, to me, the child welfare ain't so good.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** No?

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Because a lot of shit goes on and nothing happens. You don't see the kids in a better place when they do take them away.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Has your family been impacted at all by child welfare?

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** So you're -- you're seeing what's happening with the other families?

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Yeah. Yeah.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** And are you finding that the child welfare is -- is still taking children from your reserve?

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No. No, they're not.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** They're not.

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No. Not when they don't have to. When it's a necessity you can see it that they did have the right to do that because the parents were really bad.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

**MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Yeah.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** All right. And what about
policing? Have you had any experiences with whether the
police ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No, I think they're okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah. I think the cops are okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Is there anything else that you would like to share?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No, I don't think so. And if I did have something else, I forget so easy.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Honest to God, yeah. It's like ---

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: She had a stroke ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I had a stroke ---

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: --- years ago.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah. All my memory ain't that good anymore.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And so when -- but do you recall when you had your stroke?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Three years ago.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Three years ago. So about 2015?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.
MS. KERRIE REAY: And were you taken -- were you in one of the local hospitals? Like, in ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- Fredericton, Moncton --

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Newcastle.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: New Merishi (ph.).

MS. KERRIE REAY: In ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: New Merishi.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Used to be Newcastle.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: It was Newcastle before they amalgamated.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Okay. Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And -- and how -- how was your care there? Was it ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Good.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Good.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: It was good.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Good.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: They didn't want me to leave.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Well, because that's part of the -- those systems, government systems, our -- our justice system, our medical system, our child

21

22

23

24

25
welfare system. And the Commissioners are interested in
people's experiences in terms of how they've been treated
as an Indigenous person within ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- those systems.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Oh, no, they treated me
real good in the hospital.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Really good, yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Have you ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: And I had no problems
with cops. I even was speeding from here going home once
and a cop was behind me and he flashed his lights for me to
slow down. I didn't see him. I'm so busy -- you know,
when you're on the car and you're singing and enjoying the
ride, and he went right beside me and he beeped and I went,
"Oh." So I pulled over and he said, "You know how fast you
were going?" And I, "No." And he said, "Well, I'm telling
you you were going very fast. Could you slow down?" And
he said, "I'm not going to ticket you or anything. And he
said, "Let your reserve know that I'm a good guy."

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I said okay and he let
me go. But I slowed down.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So -- so in terms
of the impact of the -- sort of those institutional experiences, yours have been -- have been fairly good?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And having your children in the hospital or did you have them at home?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I've never had any complaints about them being in a hospital.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Have you sensed any of the racism that they speak so much of?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No. I never. No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I don't -- white men never treated me funny.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Other than the residential school, right?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, right. But that's still front and center.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: And do you know that when we were in Shubie, I never knew this, but my lawyer, they -- my lawyer was told that in Shubie when the nuns and priests and brothers wanted the job to work in Shubenacadie Residential School, the first question was how do you feel
about us Indian kids. And the ones that liked us, they weren't hired. They only hired the ones that didn't give a shit about us. I don't know how they said that because they're priests and nuns.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: But -- yeah. And I couldn't believe it. And the priest, the one that sexually abused a lot of kids there, they knew he was a sexual predator yet they let him be our priest.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And was -- was he ever charged because over time ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Is he still alive?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: No.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: He died long time.

Twenty years ago maybe.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Because he must have been pretty old by now.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So justice was never
MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No. I even told that to my lawyer. I said, "Honest to God", I said, "If they were alive today I swear to God I would kill them. I" -- and he said, "Lornie, they're going to have their pay. Remember who's in charge here." And he pointed up and you're right. Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And so have you had an -- so in terms of your own healing, have you -- do you use traditional --

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- or cultural ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I don't believe in that fanning the smoke and all that. No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And given your -- your upbringing in that -- that short -- well, it probably felt like forever; those years that you were with the church ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Shubenacadie. That's where we're taught going to church, God, Jesus [inaudible response] say so. And I believe in God.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I would never go back. It's -- it's in me.
MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Okay. And you said something there that just sort of triggered a question for me. Usually I write it down. But you know when you're listening you probably don't -- you don't want to -- to break that -- that, you know, when you're listening. Okay. It's gone.

So while I'm still thinking, we will -- I'm just -- I'm just going to sort of remind that we will connect because there's still a lot of unanswered questions for yourself.

And I -- I know what I was going to ask you. Do you speak your language?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Because you made reference to a couple of words there so I was just wondering if you ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Oh, no, I -- I will always remember those words. I didn't know what they meant but I knew what she meant when I heard them. I knew she said Geraldine's dead. I didn't know why or how but...

MS. KERRIE REAY: Did your mom speak your language?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So your time away ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: And my father.
MS. KERRIE REAY: And your father. So your time away at the residential school, you lost the ability to speak your language?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: No?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No. My mom and dad never taught us Indian.

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: I always blamed her.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah. No, my ---

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: I always blamed her --

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: --- father ---

MS. PEARLENE BONNELL: --- that we couldn't' speak Mi'kmaq and I always thought it was her fault because she never told us about Shubenacadie until we were a lot older.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: But no, I never could speak it anyway.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: But we weren't allowed to speak it in Shubenacadie. And I saw a lot of kids getting in trouble for that.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Because they would think they were alone and they'd be talking in Indian but
they'd always get caught. Maybe some got away with it. I don't know. But a lot got caught.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you know, did your mom go to residential school?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No. No, she didn't.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And what about your dad?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Because I -- I'm -- you know, given what Tiger commented about that thinking that it was your choice to not carry on -- on -- on the language because we've -- you know, we understand that for many families across this country parents learned when they were in residential school not to speak their language and so then they chose not to ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- teach their children --

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Just in case.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- because they were -- they were concerned, right. They didn't -- they -- they didn't want it to continue. They didn't want that violence against their children for speaking that language.

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And so I -- I'm just -- I was just interested in terms for -- for -- for your truth
as to whether or not that that might have been part of it
in terms of ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you know how your
mother and dad did not end up in residential school?

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: No. And that wouldn't
be a question because why would anybody ask that?

MS. KERRIE REAY: Because I -- I do know
that families hid children so that -- that they -- they
couldn't be taken. And so I'm just wondering in terms of
your own ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- family history if
there -- there had been events back a ways, generations, so
that children weren't taken. Okay. And -- and the reason
I ask about language is because often I do invite people,
if they'd like to share a few words in their language,
because it was taken from them and that this is an
opportunity here to -- to speak it, so, okay. Is anything
else that you might like to share? Would you -- would you
like us to stop for a minute because -- to see whether or
not there might be other thoughts or ---

MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I don't think there's
anything else.

--- Upon adjourning at 3:58 P.M.
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

November 19, 2018