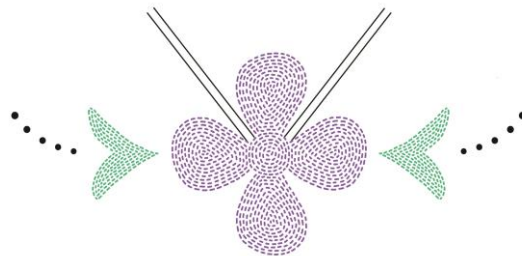


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Coast Inn of the North
Prince George, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Saturday October 27, 2018

Statement - Volume 541

**Ida Basil & Peter Basil,
In relation to Immaculate Basil**

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

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Statement - Public
Ida Basil & Peter Basil,
(Immaculate Basil)

1

Prince George, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 1:05 p.m.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, so this is Kerrie

4 Reay, I'm a statement taker with the National Inquiry into
5 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. And today
6 we are in Prince George, British Columbia. It is October
7 27th, 2018, and the time is 1:05. Today I am speaking with
8 Ida I-D-A, Basil B-A-S-I-L, of the Yekooche First Nation
9 from Fort St. James. And that is spelled -- I'm not sure
10 that I quite pronounced it right, but that is spelled Y-E-
11 K-O-O-C-H-E. And Ida is here to share her truth about her
12 sister, Immaculate Basil, I-M-M-A-C-U-L-A-T-E, and
13 Immaculate, also referred to as Mackie, went missing on
14 June 13th, 2013, at Fort St. James here in British
15 Columbia. Also present in the room is Peter Basil, her
16 brother, along with Vivian Basil, his wife, and they are
17 here to support you. And Danny -- and your name?

18 **MR. DANNY ALEXIS:** Alexis.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Alexis, and Danny Alexis
20 is also in the room, A-L-E-X-I-S. And we also have your
21 two sons present. So for the record Ida, you're here
22 voluntarily and you understand that we are audio taping and
23 videotaping today, and that at the end we will ask you to
24 let us know how you would like the inquiry to use your
25 truth that you share today, either publicly or privately.

1 So I'll be taking some notes. I don't like to interrupt,
2 but I may need to get clarification on some things so I
3 will come back around. And if you're, if you're looking
4 for some assistance or guidance to help share your truth,
5 I'm more than happy to help you with that today. So when
6 you're ready, deep breath. When you're ready, please
7 decide -- you can start wherever you'd like to start.

8 **MS. IDA BASIL:** About myself?

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes, you can -- you can
10 start with about you and your family and Mackie your
11 sister, and where you grew up, or you can start with
12 Mackie's disappearance.

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I'm Ida, Mackie's older
14 sister by like one year. She -- I was notified by my
15 family, Peter and [Sister 1], they called me and told me
16 that she's been missing and no one's seen her for a few
17 days. And that was on June 13th, 2013. And I don't know,
18 I didn't know how to handle it, like I was shocked. A lot
19 of things going through my mind, and I kept in touch with
20 my family.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So where were you living?

22 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Here in Prince George.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You were here in Prince
24 George, okay.

25 **MS. IDA BASIL:** And went out there right

1 away.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It's okay, take your time.

3 So you travelled up to Fort St. James?

4 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yep, it's like 45 minutes
5 outside of Fort St. James, north.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And what was
7 happening in the home when you got there?

8 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I believe we all met up out
9 at Leo Creek, right?

10 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And why at Leo Creek?

12 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Because that's where she was
13 reported last seen.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, okay.

15 **MS. IDA BASIL:** And we all met up there at a
16 campsite that they set up.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Who's they?

18 **MS. IDA BASIL:** My family, sorry.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Your family?

20 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** The reason I ask is I'm --
22 part of the Commission is interested in hearing how
23 policing responds to Indigenous women that are missing.

24 **MS. IDA BASIL:** And the community was out
25 there helping. And they had --

1 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Police cars.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

3 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Helicopters and --

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Can you describe the area
5 that she went missing in?

6 **MS. IDA BASIL:** It's kind of a remote place,
7 a lot of forest, dirt road.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Was she there camping or
9 was she travelling?

10 **MS. IDA BASIL:** She was actually at a party,
11 is what I was told from my family.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Uh huh.

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I have no idea how she --
14 how it all happened and how she got there.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, okay.

16 **MS. IDA BASIL:** My brother would have to
17 fill you in.

18 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Well basically she was at
19 a party on the reserve. And then two guys -- she jumped in
20 the truck with two guys, and then -- well there was more
21 than two guys, but along the way as they were going out of
22 the reserve people jumped off here and there. And it just
23 ended up to be three of them in the truck, with her and two
24 guys. And from there they went up the Leo Creek Forest
25 Service Road to Route 21 I think, or (indiscernible) or

1 something like that.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

3 **MR. PETER BASIL:** They went to
4 (indiscernible).

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** They went to what, sorry?

6 **MR. PETER BASIL:** [*One line redacted -*
7 *ongoing investigation*].

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, okay.

9 **MR. PETER BASIL:** [*Three lines redacted -*
10 *ongoing investigation*]. And I never seen her all weekend.
11 Usually Thursday, Friday -- I don't know, I think she
12 started drinking.

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Friday.

14 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Friday, and she started
15 drinking. Well she came to Vanderhoof visiting my wife and
16 my father-in-law, and went to get a Father's Day cake and
17 stuff like that, and shopped for groceries. And then she
18 was getting mad because I didn't want to go in the liquor
19 store for her, to buy her two bottles of Vodka. So she
20 jumped out and I caught up with her, and I told her if she
21 wanted her money she has to get back in the truck. Then I
22 stopped at the liquor store that day for her.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And so then she
24 went and was at a party?

25 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And then -- so Ida, how
2 long were you able to stay in the area to help?

3 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I'm not too sure. Did I go
4 back that day?

5 **MR. PETER BASIL:** I think you were there
6 about a couple of days.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Would you like to share
8 with the Commissioners what you remember of your sister
9 growing up? You said you were a year older than her?

10 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah. I grew up with Mackie
11 and my younger sister [Sister 1]. Like we grew up in the
12 system and it was pretty tough. But I don't really want to
13 get into that, but we were pretty close to each other,
14 always kept in touch or always around. We would be like
15 normal siblings I guess, and we'd fight and argue and have
16 fun.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Were you raised in
18 different homes when you say the system?

19 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yes.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

21 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Well Mackie was on her own,
22 [Sister 1] and I were together.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, and did Mackie share
24 her experiences with you about her foster home?

25 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah. We always got to stay

1 the night with her, or she would come over and stay with
2 us. Like she lived across the lake from us, Lucas Lake.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, okay.

4 **MS. IDA BASIL:** So we always got to see each
5 other every day.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And how old was -- Mackie
7 was 17 -- 27?

8 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Twenty-even.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Twenty-seven when she went
10 missing. And can you talk about your relationship, what
11 would you like to share today with the Commissioners about
12 your sister?

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I don't know, she was a good
14 person, she was kind, nice. That's the same thing.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

16 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I don't know, she was
17 caring.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your family has had no
19 answers?

20 **MS. IDA BASIL:** No.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Have the police updated
22 your family at all about the investigation into her
23 disappearance?

24 **MS. IDA BASIL:** My brother does most of that
25 part.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

2 **MS. IDA BASIL:** It's too hard on me because
3 -- like having to talk to journalists and reporters about
4 growing up.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, so have you had a lot
6 of that?

7 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And how -- how has it been
9 for you with them sharing your family, your family's
10 struggles with the disappearance of your sister?

11 **MS. IDA BASIL:** It's tough. It's like -- I
12 don't know, to me like having to talk about it, like the
13 past, you get re-traumatized.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes, yeah. And that's
15 what we were talking about, that there's a great deal of
16 pain and emotion that gets shared here. And if you're not
17 comfortable sharing that, that's okay. This is your space,
18 you've taken time to come down. So if there's, there's
19 stuff that you want to talk about, frustration with the
20 system, frustration about the journalists, frustration
21 about policing you can, that is here for you to share it
22 today.

23 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I know. I think they did
24 their job on their parts. Do you guys agree?

25 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You think the police have
2 worked hard?

3 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah, they were working at
4 it pretty hard because the first day we reported her
5 missing they responded that same evening, and they went
6 back into the Fort. They came back the next day, and did a
7 little bit of knocking on people's doors, and by the 13th
8 they had a full-scale search going.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. That was a bit of
10 relief for the family, to have the police doing their,
11 their job?

12 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah. And so far we've
13 been keeping updated by the investigators, like on their
14 behalf. Well they've still got some people searching, like
15 me, my father-in-law, we've been searching over the
16 summers.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

18 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Then this past -- like we
19 find things and we send it out for getting it tested and
20 seeing if there's any DNA or stuff, to see if it's related
21 to Mackie.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

23 **MR. PETER BASIL:** The investigators, they
24 come back like in a week or two --

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well that's good.

1 **MR. PETER BASIL:** -- to update me when they
2 get it back.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, okay, that's good.

4 **MR. PETER BASIL:** There's been -- well just
5 recently they found some more stuff, but I never got the
6 chance to tell the RCMP yet.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

8 **MR. PETER BASIL:** And send like bones out
9 and stuff like that, tarps and stuff like that, whatever we
10 find.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** That's difficult, you know
12 difficult for all these years to be searching and
13 searching, yeah. And Peter, do you -- have you had the
14 same challenges with the journalists and the media trying
15 to get a hold of you and documents? It seems that Ida was
16 quite upset by the experience.

17 **MR. PETER BASIL:** I was kind of like the
18 backbone of all that, setting it up and getting things
19 going with them. I lost, lost track of how much people we
20 were dealing with there for a while.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm, m'hmm. And Ida, do
22 you want to share about what it, what it was that was
23 upsetting, was it the manner in which they approached you?

24 **MS. IDA BASIL:** No, like I understand all of
25 that, I don't have anything against them, it's just -- to

1 me like I put that behind me, growing up with my sister and
2 what it was like. But when she went missing, like I was
3 open-minded and honest and told the truth, and to get the
4 word out there, how much our family's hurting --

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm, m'hmm.

6 **MS. IDA BASIL:** -- I talked about it. And
7 yeah, I have nothing against them at all. It's just to me
8 -- it's hard.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes. So I'm understanding
10 that the pain that is with you from growing up on the years
11 in the system, that you've developed a way to try to
12 protect yourself, to keep yourself safe and to not hurt?

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so this is, this is
15 part of the way you handle it, is to try to put it away?

16 **MS. IDA BASIL:** M'hmm.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Part of what the
18 Commission is also concerned about, is about how to keep
19 young Indigenous women and girls safe. And part of that is
20 looking at the violence, and survivors of violence,
21 survivors of the system, whether it's the foster system, or
22 Residential School system, the Sixties Scoop. Is there any
23 of that you'd like to share today? Because it is there.
24 If you're not ready and you are finding this too painful,
25 this is your space so it's up to you what you share and

1 what you don't share.

2 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I don't know. It was pretty
3 tough in the system because all the stuff that happened.
4 And I wasn't on good terms, that's for sure. And I
5 honestly hate the system.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I bet, yeah.

7 **MS. IDA BASIL:** They actually tried to get
8 involved with my kids a couple of years ago.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Do you want to share what
10 they figured was the grounds to get involved with your
11 children?

12 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Because I'm Native.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

14 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And they -- and your
16 children have stayed with you the entire time?

17 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yes, with both, me and the
18 dad.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. But it was -- but
20 it sounds like it was very challenging for you, to have
21 child welfare knocking on your door.

22 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I lost it. We went into a
23 meeting and I ended up telling them off, that they're not
24 opening up a file. And I told them what had happened to
25 me, and I was like I'm not going to let it happen with my

1 kids.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And they -- did they tell
3 you why they came knocking on your door?

4 **MS. IDA BASIL:** No.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No?

6 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I know that they got a call,
7 but I don't know from who.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So it sounds like maybe
9 they were a little quick in coming knocking on your door?

10 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And I also sense that you
12 said it's because you're Indigenous?

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** When you were thinking
15 about coming to speak, was there something that you really
16 wanted to make sure that you shared with the Commissioners?

17 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Pretty much the pain that
18 we're all going through, and wanting her to be found so we
19 can have closure.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Is there anything you
21 think anybody could be doing more? I mean Peter and your
22 family are searching all the time. Is there anything else
23 that you think would help?

24 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I don't know, everybody's
25 doing as much as they can.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

2 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Like the whole community and
3 the surrounding areas, our family, it's still there.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm, it's just the
5 waiting and the unknown?

6 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I just want to make sure
8 you have an opportunity to share what you, what you've
9 waited for, to be able to come here today.

10 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I don't know, hoping that
11 someone would come forward.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** So we can have closure or
14 something.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And it sounds from what
16 Peter said, that the RCMP have been good about sharing
17 information?

18 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Is there any information
20 that you would like that you haven't got, or do you think
21 that things right now are going well?

22 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Things are going well, so
23 far anyway.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And when I say
25 well, I mean in terms of that communication between you and

1 the police.

2 **MR. PETER BASIL:** We pretty well developed a
3 bond with the investigators that's working with us.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

5 **MR. PETER BASIL:** But that's just part of
6 the tragedy we live through. Like my sister -- that's not
7 including my other sister that died from a fentanyl
8 overdose. And the year after she died my brother got shot
9 down here, the gun violence and stuff like that. So it's
10 just, just partially the tragedy that we're speaking about
11 now.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So your sister that died
13 of a fentanyl overdose, was she the one that stayed with
14 you in care, or she was --

15 **MS. IDA BASIL:** No, she was older. She was
16 I guess a street person.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, okay. And did she
18 lose her life to fentanyl here in Prince George?

19 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And then you said
21 your brother was, was murdered in Prince George as well?

22 **MS. IDA BASIL:** All year after year.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh dear.

24 **MS. IDA BASIL:** My sister, older sister
25 Samantha, then Mackie went missing, then my brother got

1 shot.

2 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Mackie, then Samantha,
3 then Travis.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And who's Travis?

5 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Brother, youngest brother.
6 He's the youngest of all of us.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And was he the one that
8 was shot?

9 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yes.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, and you mentioned
11 another brother?

12 **MR. PETER BASIL:** We have two brothers.
13 One's in jail and one's in treatment right now.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Did any of you go to
15 residential school? How about your parents?

16 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah? Both your parents?

18 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Did they ever talk about
20 residential school?

21 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I don't -- I didn't get to
22 grow up with my family, but from what I recall they never
23 did.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So you were taken away
25 very young?

1 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah. Always in and out of
2 foster homes, different homes.

3 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Mother and father were
4 pretty young. But my mother and my father, they walked out
5 on us when we were at a young age. Like I was two years
6 old, and you were like 10, 11, 12 years old or something.
7 My mom left, started drinking out in the streets, and then
8 my dad left and went back to the other reserves. And I
9 practically grew up with my Granny and, and my Granny
10 couldn't handle all the kids so the Ministry had to step
11 in, take these girls from her.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And when was that?

13 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Early 90s I think.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Pretty young. And what's
15 your date of birth Ida?

16 **MS. IDA BASIL:** [Birthdate].

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So you were about six.

18 **MR. PETER BASIL:** And then by the time we
19 were all old enough, like my mother got ran over by a semi
20 here in Prince George due to alcohol related. She died the
21 next day after she got ran over.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh dear. So lots of
23 tragedy, lots and lots of tragedy.

24 **MR. PETER BASIL:** We didn't have no bonding
25 with her, she didn't really talk to us about her life in

1 residential school or anything. So she just left us.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you were in foster
3 care?

4 **MS. IDA BASIL:** M'hmm.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you survived foster
6 care and have two very handsome boys.

7 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Thanks.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So if there's anything
9 that you would like to share about your experience in
10 foster care, or the education system, or the health
11 systems?

12 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I don't know, like now I'm
13 older and a little bit wiser. To me it's pretty bad.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And when you were in
15 foster care were they non-Indigenous homes?

16 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yes. We had to stay in the
17 motels and the hotels for like a month at a time, until
18 they found a place for us temporarily.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so can I ask? When
20 you became of age, when they talk about aging out, did you
21 age out of the foster care system?

22 **MS. IDA BASIL:** I was actually 15 when I
23 decided to move from the foster parents that my sister and
24 I were staying in out at Lucas Lake. I ended up going into
25 the group home in Vanderhoof. Stayed there like for a

1 couple of months. I ended up with a boyfriend, and they
2 thought we were mature and old enough that we can go on
3 independent living.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** They did?

5 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** They did?

7 **MS. IDA BASIL:** The group home people.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

9 **MS. IDA BASIL:** So they actually taught us
10 stuff like that, so that place was good. And so that's
11 when I moved on my own. It was a couple of months before I
12 turned 16 and I've been living on my own since.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And can you share with the
14 Commissioners, as a young Indigenous woman, what were some
15 of the -- what were some of those difficulties being out
16 living on your own at such a young age?

17 **MS. IDA BASIL:** It was pretty tough. You
18 definitely have to grow up fast. The Ministry was there to
19 just get you past, like with income right?

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

21 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And what about finding a
23 place to stay, being that young? Did you have difficulties
24 finding a place to live?

25 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yes, but the group home

1 people that ran it, they actually helped us.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

3 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah, which the Ministry
4 didn't. You'd think that they would. Yeah, I actually
5 took advantage of the Ministry, yeah. I figured if they
6 were going to be my legal guardians, they might as well pay
7 for everything.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

9 **MS. IDA BASIL:** So I always got extra money
10 and vouchers for stuff that I needed. And when I turned of
11 age they asked if they could mark me down as, like
12 disabled, like illiterate, you can't read or write. So
13 then I could go on welfare and not have to work or
14 anything. And I told them no, because I was capable of
15 going out on my own, getting a job. And that's what I did.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So can I ask, and only
17 answer if you feel comfortable, because one of the things
18 that you've shared is a system encouraging you not to go
19 out to succeed and to grow as a young woman, but to stay at
20 home on welfare.

21 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah, I don't know, to me --
22 I wasn't very smart back then, so I didn't think of that.
23 I just told them like I can do this.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah, you had the
25 confidence in yourself while the Ministry seemed to not?

1 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And I'm just wondering if
3 that's part of that systemic racism that we start -- that
4 we see. They think they're helping, but in fact maybe
5 they're not.

6 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah, definitely not.
7 Because they have rules, stuff to fall into, and I knew
8 what they could do and couldn't do because I grew up in the
9 system.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right, system wise.

11 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah. What they're allowed
12 to do, or what they can say or cannot say.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Is there anything else
14 that you would like to share with the Commissioners about
15 growing up on the child welfare system? Because what we're
16 seeing today is -- you know we have the residential
17 schools, then we have the Sixties Scoop for adoption, and
18 now we're seeing a very large majority of Indigenous
19 children ending up now in our child welfare system. And
20 you spoke here earlier, that somebody complained and
21 they're knocking on your door looking to remove the
22 children.

23 **MS. IDA BASIL:** They actually did that. On
24 our brother's funeral, like the service, they came to my
25 brother's, [Brother 1], his place. Came knocking on the

1 door and tried to remove the kids, like his kids. And I --
2 luckily I was there at that time when they came. I lost it
3 on them. Like I'm so against the system, the Ministry,
4 like how they go about things.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

6 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Not properly investigate.
7 But they were trying to take the kids and I lost it on
8 them. She was like bawling her eyes out.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And this was the day of
10 your brother's funeral?

11 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah. And so I was like you
12 guys have no right coming here. Like our whole family's
13 grieving. Like the day of the service that they decide to
14 come and try and remove the kids? Like what more can they
15 do to hurt the family even more?

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right, right.

17 **MS. IDA BASIL:** And like huge disrespect
18 too.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Did they leave?

20 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yes, they ended up leaving.
21 And my brother's girlfriend was like crying to me. She was
22 like I'm so thankful you were here, because she didn't know
23 what to do.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And was this the brother
25 that died from, from the stab wound?

1 **MS. IDA BASIL:** The one who got murdered --

2 **MR. PETER BASIL:** He was shot.

3 **MS. IDA BASIL:** -- got shot.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh shot, sorry.

5 **MR. PETER BASIL:** That wasn't his funeral
6 day, but our other -- my youngest brother. That was our
7 older brother -- well not older than me, but a younger one.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And how did he pass away?

9 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Well he's still alive,
10 just the youngest, youngest brother is gone.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, I'm sorry. So you were
12 -- it was your younger brother's funeral, but it was
13 another brother who was there at the funeral, that they
14 were coming to take his children?

15 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yes.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, okay. And were they
17 living on the reserve or were they living in town?

18 **MS. IDA BASIL:** On the reserve.

19 **MR. PETER BASIL:** On the reserve.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Do you have any
21 thoughts Ida, given your experience, what would help the
22 Child Welfare system?

23 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Remove it completely.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, yeah.

25 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Because I don't see it

1 helping. All they want to do is control Indigenous people.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your experience is
3 being in that system certainly.

4 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

6 **MR. PETER BASIL:** I kind of find the welfare
7 system, like they should try to like give young parents a
8 chance, because after -- before and after they take their
9 kids they start that -- they're chasing them to the streets
10 to do drugs and drink because they know they got their
11 freedom back. And on the other hand, when they have their
12 kids and stuff like that, they've got responsibilities so
13 they stay within the limits of what they could do.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm. So lend a helping
15 hand rather than using it to remove the children?

16 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah, so I just figure
17 they should give the parents a chance, let them have their
18 kids even though they're going through rough times.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right, and putting those
20 supports. I think I hear you saying putting in supports
21 there, so that the children can stay with their parents?

22 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And I think you made the
24 comment that even though your parents weren't there, they
25 were your parents.

1 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. And that
3 connection, that bond, that they are your parents no matter
4 what.

5 **MR. PETER BASIL:** Yeah.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Anything else Ida? I
7 don't want to keep you longer than what you're wanting to
8 share, but I don't want you to leave either, feeling that
9 you didn't share everything you wanted to share. Anything
10 there that you've been thinking about, keeping to yourself?

11 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Only the closure.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** For Mackie?

13 **MS. IDA BASIL:** Yeah, for us to have
14 closure. But I'm kind of losing hope, I don't think
15 anything will ever happen.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And that's, that's the
17 real difficulty, that's the real sadness.

18 **MR. PETER BASIL:** And then I figure -- like
19 I never give up hope, but I'm slowing putting it behind me
20 and moving on or ahead of me. And I told my wife like
21 you've got to keep an open mind, like things about the
22 forests and hunters and stuff like that, maybe one day
23 they'll stumble across her.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

25 **MR. PETER BASIL:** So that's where my hopes

1 are now.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Well it's very
3 heartbreaking, you've had a lot of loss in your family
4 through great violence. And Ida, I thank you for sharing
5 your thoughts about the child welfare system. Every little
6 bit helps, you know, forms some thoughts about how to make
7 life for Indigenous women and girls, and all Indigenous
8 people, safer and healthier.

9 --- Upon adjourning at 1:48 p.m.

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Statement - Public
Ida Basil & Peter Basil,
(Immaculate Basil)

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Sherry Hobe, 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.



Sherry Hobe

November 22, 2018