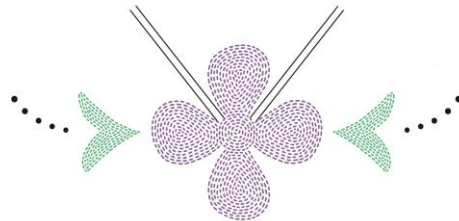


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 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**

**INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.
41-5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2
E-mail: info@irri.net – Phone: 613-748-6043 – Fax: 613-748-8246**

II

NOTE

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

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Statement Gatherer: Kerrie Reay

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Moncton, New Brunswick

1
2 --- Upon commencing on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 3:25
3 P.M.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So this is Kerrie Reay.
5 I'm a statement taker with the National Inquiry into
6 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and we are
7 in Moncton, New Brunswick and the date is October the 20th,
8 2018 and the time is 3:25 P.M. Today I am speaking with
9 Lornie Bonnell of the Burnt Church, First Nation and Lornie
10 resides on the Burnt Church, First Nation reserve.

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

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

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

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

25 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Yes.

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

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

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

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

10 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Certainly. Okay.
11 Well, we lived here in Burnt Church since long and I was
12 cleaning the floor and my aunt came over. She just lived a
13 couple of houses down. And she came over and there was a
14 knock on the door. And I was washing the floor as usual.
15 And when my aunt came in my mom opened the door and she,
16 "Yeah, what's going on?" And my aunt, in Indian, Mi'kmaq,
17 said, "Geraldine don't [speaking in Mi'kmaq]." That means
18 she's dead. And I couldn't understand Indian but when she
19 said that I knew what she said. I don't know why.

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

24 Anyway, it -- so what happened, Gilly (ph.)
25 had an argument with her boyfriend. And we heard this from

1 [Person X]. That was her boyfriend's brother. He comes
2 down Burnt Church every summer. And he said that her and
3 [Geraldine's Boyfriend] got into an argument so she walked
4 out of their apartment. And she went to this other bar
5 that they never go to. They either went to this bar or
6 that bar. Never that one. But she went there because she
7 knew [Geraldine's Boyfriend] was going to come look for her
8 so she went to this bar.

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

21 And she was only 27 years old.

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

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

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and you were saying

1 this was back in 1974?

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

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

5 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- or your unanswered
7 questions ---

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

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

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

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

17 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** M'hm.

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

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

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So -- so there are
25 lots of unanswered questions?

1 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** M'hm. M'hm.

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

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

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

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

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

21 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Okay.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- so that we can see if
23 there's a way to get some of the -- that information.

24 Were you told anything about whether they
25 caught the man?

1 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Five weeks ago.

2 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** August 14.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Wow.

4 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Well, my mom was a
20 tough woman. Like, I really don't know. I couldn't see
21 how it hurt her. Because me, I lived -- for a week after
22 she got shot I lived in a daze. You know, all I did was
23 clean house, [inaudible response] my mom [inaudible
24 response]. And she said, "Lornie, stop. You have no right
25 to feel that hard. Like, we can't bring her back." So

1 that did wake me up a bit and I was okay after that. And
2 she said, "You got kids to take care of. Take care of
3 them." My daughter.

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

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

8 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** From the hospital,
25 yeah.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And that was in -- in
2 Massachusetts?

3 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Yes.

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

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

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

8 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** And he was ---

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

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

11 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Yeah.

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

15 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Fifty-one? Fifty.

16 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

19 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Oh, okay.

20 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** --- November.

21 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** He was the same age.

22 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Yeah.

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

25 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** How did he ---

1 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Liver failure.

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

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

5 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Officially.

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

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

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

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

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

18 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Six, seven.

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

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

23 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Because she was in
24 Boston. He was home. But when she'd come down every
25 summer to visit she would have a day with him.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and did he ever
2 talk about his feelings about ---

3 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- being raised by an
5 aunt ---

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

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

10 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** His natural mom?

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

24 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** We still have it.

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

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** That's nice.

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

4 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** And I gave it to
5 [Geraldine's Son].

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

9 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** Yeah.

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

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So -- so her son,
14 [Geraldine's Son]?

15 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** M'hm.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** [Geraldine's Son] had some
17 challenges, some struggles growing up?

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

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

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

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

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

1 much. I think.

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

4 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Me? Yes.

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

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

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

24 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** [Rule 55].

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** [Rule 55].

1 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: And ---

3 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: [Rule 55].

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

6 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Shubenacadie.

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

9 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Nova Scotia.

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

12 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: M'hm.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: How old were you when they
14 ---

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

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: So very young.

18 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Really young.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Very young.

20 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: Yeah.

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

23 MS. LORNIE BONNELL: I thought it was four
24 or five years but when we got that thing from them they
25 said we were only there three years, so I don't know. My

1 mom always told us we were there five years. And we
2 weren't allowed to come home on the summer time. Too far
3 for them I guess. And they would put us in another
4 reserve, another person's house that would take care of us.

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

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

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

13 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** [Rule 55].

15 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** [Rule 55].

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** [Rule 55].

17 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** [Rule 55].

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** That's okay.

19 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** [Rule 55].

20 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** [Rule 55].

21 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** [Rule 55].

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

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

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so you were about
25 eight or nine, maybe ten when you came home?

1 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** When we got home, yeah.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and you came back
3 to ---

4 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Burnt Church.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- Burnt Church?

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

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your parents were
8 there?

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

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

13 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Different.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

15 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** It was, like,
16 different.

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

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

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No.

24 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Anything. If you got
25 caught talking in Indian they would put soap in your mouth,

1 stand you in the corner and you couldn't get out of that
2 corner until that soap was gone. Yeah, it was a bad place.

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

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

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

9 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** I don't know.

10 [Personal Information]

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Did she?

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

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Take the pain away.

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

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

18 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** M'hm.

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

21 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Pretty good.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

23 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** And ---

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Would you like to share --

25 -

1 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** --- when I started
2 having my kids, in my mind, I said, "Well, we went through
3 Shubenacadie. My kids ain't going to know nothing about
4 it." And I hardly ever talk about Shubie. And I brought
5 my kids up pretty good. I am proud of myself.

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

8 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Five.

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

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

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

14 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Three boys in the
15 middle.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So Tiger is your
17 oldest.

18 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** M'hm.

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

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

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

1 Commission -- Commissioners are interested in.

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

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

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

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

10 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

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

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** All right. And what about

1 policing? Have you had any experiences with whether the
2 police ---

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

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

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

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

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

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Do you?

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

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

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

17 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** --- years ago.

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

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

22 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Three years ago.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Three years ago. So about
24 2015?

25 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** M'hm.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And were you taken -- were
2 you in one of the local hospitals? Like, in ---

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

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- Fredericton, Moncton -
5 --

6 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Newcastle.

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

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** In ---

9 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** New Merishi.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

11 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Used to be Newcastle.

12 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** It was Newcastle
13 before they amalgamated.

14 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Okay. Okay.

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

17 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Good.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Good.

19 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** It was good.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Good.

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

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

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

4 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Okay.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- those systems.

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

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

9 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Really good, yeah.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Have you ---

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

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

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

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So -- so in terms

1 of the impact of the -- sort of those institutional
2 experiences, yours have been -- have been fairly good?

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

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

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

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

9 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** And do you know that
22 when we were in Shubie, I never knew this, but my lawyer,
23 they -- my lawyer was told that in Shubie when the nuns and
24 priests and brothers wanted the job to work in Shubenacadie
25 Residential School, the first question was how do you feel

1 about us Indian kids. And the ones that liked us, they
2 weren't hired. They only hired the ones that didn't give a
3 shit about us. I don't know how they said that because
4 they're priests and nuns.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

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

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

12 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

14 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Is he still alive?

16 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

17 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** No.

18 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** He died long time.
19 Twenty years ago maybe.

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

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

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

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

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So justice was never

1 served?

2 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No. I even told that
3 to my lawyer. I said, "Honest to God", I said, "If they
4 were alive today I swear to God I would kill them. I" --
5 and he said, "Lornie, they're going to have their pay.
6 Remember who's in charge here." And he pointed up and
7 you're right. Yeah.

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

11 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

24 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** I would never go back.
25 It's -- it's in me.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Okay. And you said
2 something there that just sort of triggered a question for
3 me. Usually I write it down. But you know when you're
4 listening you probably don't -- you don't want to -- to
5 break that -- that, you know, when you're listening. Okay.
6 It's gone.

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

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

13 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

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

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Did your mom speak your
22 language?

23 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Yes.

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

25 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** And my father.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your father. So your
2 time away at the residential school, you lost the ability
3 to speak your language?

4 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

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

8 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** I always blamed her.

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

10 **MS. PEARLENE BONNELL:** I always blamed her -
11 --

12 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** --- father ---

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

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

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

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

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

24 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Because they would
25 think they were alone and they'd be talking in Indian but

1 they'd always get caught. Maybe some got away with it. I
2 don't know. But a lot got caught.

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

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

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And what about your dad?

7 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** No.

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

15 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Okay.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- teach their children -
17 --

18 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Just in case.

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

23 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Okay.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so I -- I'm just -- I
25 was just interested in terms for -- for -- for your truth

1 as to whether or not that that might have been part of it
2 in terms of ---

3 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Okay.

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

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

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

12 **MS. LORNIE BONNELL:** Okay.

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

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

25 --- 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.



Ashley Robertson

November 19, 2018