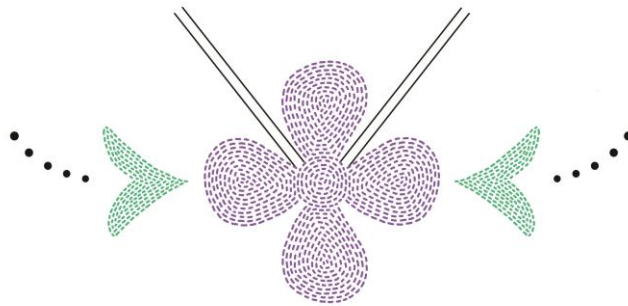


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta**



PUBLIC

Wednesday November 8, 2017

Statement - Volume 84

**Dr. Maggie Hodgson, O.C.,
In relation to Cherish Oppenheim**

Statement gathered by Alana Lee

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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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Edmonton, Alberta

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 4:14
3 p.m.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay, so it is November 8th,
5 2017. This Alana Lee, statement gatherer with the National
6 Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and
7 Girls. I am here with Maggie Hodgson and we're in
8 Edmonton, Alberta. We are an in-camera session.

9 *[Registrar's note: the witness subsequently elected to make*
10 *her statement public]*. Maggie, you're here today on a
11 voluntary basis --

12 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** M'hm.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** -- right? Okay. So I just
14 want that on the record. Maggie, you're originally
15 from ...

16 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Nadleh Whut'en.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Nadleh?

18 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Nadleh.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Nadleh, and that's in British
20 Columbia, right?

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Up in -- by Prince
22 George.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay, perfect, and you are a
24 resident of Edmonton, and have been for quite some time.

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Fifty-six years.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Fifty-six years, okay. It is
2 currently 4:14, and we're going to start. So, Maggie, what
3 would you like the Commissioners to know?

4 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I want to talk about
5 Cherish Oppenheim's murder, my great-niece. I also want to
6 speak about what it means for grandmothers, matriarchs, or
7 -- or family helpers who work in them frontlines --

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- and also have family
10 members who die. And I had a French father from
11 (indiscernible) Quebec, lived out on a reserve. And my mom
12 was raised in residential school in Lejac, B.C., and our
13 reserve is the reserve that Lejac is situated on.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh, okay.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And there are things
16 that I didn't know until later -- when I worked in
17 residential schools I was able to read files. I never knew
18 why my dad never went to church and he was Catholic. But
19 there was some children that died in -- in -- in
20 residential school, running away.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And the priest came to
23 our house -- the other thing is Mom and Dad lived on the
24 grounds on our reserve where the residential school was.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And they lived in my
2 grandpa's house. So you know, how land is allocated by
3 council, this belongs to so and so.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** So it belonged to my
6 grandpa. And the priest came to dad and said, "These kids
7 died and, and this is what you're going to -- you're going
8 to" -- there wasn't an inquiry, but he said, "You know, the
9 government's going to come and they're going to ask you
10 questions." Well, it was this public inquiry. "And this
11 is what you're going to tell them." And my dad was a very
12 colourful language person in his broken English, and he
13 told the priest in not so kind words -- many unkind words,
14 with many colourful names, "I'm not going to lie about how
15 these kids died."

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** "They -- they were
18 beaten and they ran away." That's what I'm going to tell
19 the inquiry. So the priest said, "Well, if you tell -- if
20 you say that you're going to get fired tomorrow and you're
21 going to be off -- off this land the day after."

22 In January when it's 35, 40 below there's no
23 extra houses, like in those days all the houses are full,
24 so Mom and Dad moved in with this other family in a little
25 log cabin in town.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Wow.

2 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And Dad was never
3 called. And all of the Aboriginal people from my reserve
4 who worked in that -- in that school, and that was I think
5 in -- either in the late 20s or early 30s, who worked in
6 school, all lied because they seen what happened to Dad.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And they knew my dad was
9 a fighter, so they lied about how these kids died.

10 So my dad was an orphan -- no, he was --
11 he -- he was put in an orphanage, but he wasn't an orphan.
12 His mother became -- became a single parent, her husband
13 died, so she put some of her children into orphanage. My
14 dad was five foot two as a fully grown adult man. In the
15 orphanage he would have been prime target to be sexually
16 abused.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so he sexually
19 abused me for years. And we lived in a tiny -- tiny little
20 house and my dad was the go-to man in our town. People --
21 people -- and -- and we didn't have doctor, so he got a St.
22 John's Ambulance, and people would come to him to get
23 medicine and sew up their cuts and to do things like that.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** When they'd have

1 miscarriages, he'd help them when they had miscarriages.

2 And my mom went to residential school, and
3 her mother died when -- three months after Mom was born.
4 So Mom was raised by her uncle on the -- not on the
5 reserve, and his family.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

7 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And so they're kind of
8 my uncles, you know, they're my cousins, but they're really
9 my uncles.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And that kind of history
12 set the foundation for other things that transpired and how
13 it affected Cherish's family.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Which Cherish married
16 into our family.

17 And so -- and there were other men that Mom
18 and Dad drank with that sexually abused me, both Native and
19 non-Native. And my dad was killed when I was 11 in an
20 industrial accident, and the night before he was killed I
21 told my family, "I wished my dad would just die," and he
22 died, boom. I was sure I killed him.

23 So there was six of us and my oldest brother
24 went to residential school. The oldest brother is
25 Cherish's -- Cherish's grandfather, Cherish's dad's

1 grandfather.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

3 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Cherish's dad's
4 grandfather, and he -- he went to residential school so he
5 had a very -- very -- when he drank he was very sadistic
6 and very -- very -- very abusive. So Cherish's step-dad,
7 who's my nephew, [Nephew 1], he -- he was -- he -- he was
8 as gentle as his dad was violent.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And he did drugs for
11 years, and decide one day, I'm going to quit and he quit.
12 I don't know -- he's been sober probably about maybe 35, 40
13 years now, a long time.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And the context of
16 Cherish's grandfather and my -- my -- my life experience
17 was difficult and challenging and racist and I learned how
18 to kickbox. Grade one to eight I was the only girl in my
19 class. So grade eight the guy that taught grade --
20 grade -- his wife taught grade one to four, and so I taught
21 because she was pregnant. I was a grade eight student
22 teaching grade one to four in his wife's place while they
23 got paid.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: Where?

25 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: (Indiscernible)

1 creative, hey. And -- and so there were lots of inequity
2 issue things that happened. And -- but because I was the
3 only girl with my brothers, and then I was the only girl
4 grade one to eight, I thought I was a boy, not -- not --
5 and not -- and I'm not gay or anything, but I thought I was
6 a boy. And at that -- I think that explains why I was a
7 manager at 26, you know.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I just didn't know girls
10 weren't managers. (Indiscernible) and then I was maybe
11 about 14. I was babysitting for this business -- white
12 business man and -- and he raped me very violently, driving
13 me home from babysitting, and I was bleeding and bleeding I
14 wouldn't say anything. I just told mom, "I'm sick." And
15 my mom finally made me go the hospital because I was
16 bleeding for too long, and we had an amazing doctor, Dr.
17 Gadell (ph), and he -- he was very -- very angry -- very
18 angry about my being raped so violently.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

20 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** My being raped so
21 violently and he said, "You have to report this to the
22 police." Well, there's two things that I was raised, you
23 do not call the police, and worse than calling the police
24 is calling Children Services so -- or Child Welfare,
25 whatever they were called in that day. So but -- he -- he

1 -- he was a really good doctor, and mom had a lot of faith
2 in him, so off we go to police.

3 The RCMP said, "What more -- what's the
4 matter? You pregnant? You know, did you have sex with him
5 and you're pregnant?" And he said, "What more do you
6 expect?" He says, "Your, your mother is an Indian and
7 she's drunk all the time, accept that you're there to be
8 used." So I ran out of the police station.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And I was crying. I
11 didn't want to go there anyways. And a young policeman
12 followed me out, a junior cop, very junior, and I believe
13 people on this earth are the hand of God.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** God acting through
16 people. And he was my hand of God. He was my hand of God.
17 And he says, "That's that guy that drives the Cadillac,"
18 and he says that, "That cream car." I say, "Yeah." And he
19 says, "That man's in there is your boss. So nothing
20 legally is going to be done."

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** "But he -- I'm going to
23 promise you I'm going make that guy pay for what he did to
24 you. I'll catch him and I'm make him pay."

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** That's what he said. He
2 said, "I believe you."

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

4 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Okay. He said, "This is
5 unjust --"

6 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

7 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** "-- and I'm going to
8 make it just." Well, you always have to watch for the hand
9 of God in my life. And people who are the hand of God, he
10 was the hand of God in my life.

11 My mom's drinking got worse. I think about
12 my -- I had a -- the personality from my dad. My dad was
13 real strong, he advocated for a lot of people in our
14 community. And my mom -- my mom taught me strategic
15 planning. My mom and dad would go away for bread and come
16 back a few beers later.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh.

18 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** She'd get all the women
19 and their older sons together and they'd make ten cords of
20 wood for us and make ten cords of wood, so all the single
21 moms in our families would get our wood from there.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And that's strategic
24 planning. You know, and that's cooperation, that's
25 community development, that's strength, all without ever

1 using those words.

2 So I think that -- anyway last thing that I
3 remember living with mom was when we lived in barn she got
4 -- we got -- she got evicted because she couldn't pay the
5 rent, and so her and I lived in a barn, and I thought you
6 know, I'd go days without eating, and I thought, "Things
7 can't get any worse than they are," like -- like, "Where am
8 I going to go, holy shit."

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: So my sister phoned
11 my -- I mean my mom phoned my sister, who's a nun and said
12 I got sent to boarding school, which is on the list for --
13 they had residential schools that were residential school,
14 and then there was boarding schools, which never got on the
15 list.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: But they were
18 residential schools, but they weren't on the list, so I was
19 sent to a school in Saskatchewan, and I cried myself to
20 sleep from September to February.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Every day, and the
23 reasons that children cry is because they want to be fed,
24 changed, or loved. And the reason they stop crying, is
25 people see change or love them. In my case I didn't have

1 family.

2 And then I was naughty. I was raised by an
3 alcoholic mom so I had a bad mouth. So they thought they
4 would settle me down by sending me to Vancouver where my
5 sister was a nun. Well, I mean they could have went to
6 Europe and got me because that didn't work.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I didn't care about her.
9 So I was there for a year. Not -- not quite a year. No, I
10 was there -- I was till Christmastime. And when I went
11 home for Christmas mom was living with his guy and I said,
12 "I want -- I'm going to stay here." My mom said, "No, you
13 have to go back," because she was still drinking. So I --
14 I was -- I bullied her into (indiscernible) the man she's
15 living with supported me to stay home, so I was happy about
16 that.

17 And so, and then my other brother, who was
18 with in Alberta, his wife, I'd written to her and she said,
19 "Come live with us," so I went to Red Deer, that's how I
20 come to Alberta. And I married at 17, and had my son at
21 17, and he died when he was three months old of a disease
22 that's still not treatable now, it's called, polycystic
23 kidneys.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** What was that?

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Polycystic kidneys.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

2 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: It's when they're in the
3 kidney, and then they grow all these little cysts on it.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

5 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And then the cysts go
6 poof and they all their organs get crushed. So one of the
7 things that I realized after that happened was I can live
8 through anything now.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: If I can live through my
11 son's death I can live through anything. I can live
12 through anything. And so I was married to [Ex-husband 1]
13 for seven-and-a-half years and I had two more children,
14 (indiscernible) and [Son 1]. And when I lived with my one
15 brother at home, only one, Cherish's dad's, step-dad's
16 father, when I lived with them things were really extremely
17 -- extremely -- extremely violent, extremely -- extremely
18 -- extremely violent.

19 And so I was, and after my second son was
20 born I had post-partum depression --

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- and I attempted
23 suicide. It was too hard. So then my sister came to visit
24 and she fell in love with my husband. She did me a favour.
25 I didn't -- she's a nun. But she did me a favour. That's

1 -- that's -- that's important you know, because you think
2 something's really bad in your life, and you -- and it
3 really turns out good, if that makes sense, you know, it
4 got me out of a marriage where I was being abused, and he'd
5 tell me, "You know you and the kids are going to starve."
6 I said, "I'm not going starve."

7 I didn't know how I would make it. I went
8 back to school. I took -- when -- when I found them
9 together I -- I took a office management program, and so
10 then I went to work for First Corporate Reserves (ph) in
11 1970. And it was interesting because I -- I wanted to
12 learn something just to get a job, but I'd never been a
13 child. I was babysitting children till I left when I was
14 14 you know, and --

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- so I'd never been a
17 child, so my divorce was -- I was going to school and
18 having fun. And that's really important in terms of that,
19 so they Court Worker Services kind of opened up and I was
20 working at this -- at this car dealership just to get -- I
21 said, "I got to stay here one year, stay here one year."

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so my year
24 anniversary -- I told -- told my boss -- and I used to work
25 nine hours -- 9:00 in the morning till 9:00 at night at

1 this car dealership and I asked for a raise and he, "No
2 fucking way. You're a recovering alcoholic, and no fucking
3 way are you are you getting one." So I just looked at him
4 I thought, okay. I said to myself, "I'm getting another
5 job," because I went to work -- I applied frequently, and
6 when I applied for a job at Court Worker Services he didn't
7 have -- he didn't get his grant yet to run the Court Worker
8 Services.

9 So I'd go back every week, and so I said,
10 Just so you know, I -- I -- I -- I've got kids to feed and
11 I -- I -- I just go some place (indiscernible) anything.
12 I've got to get a job. And welfare wasn't even an option
13 in my -- in my -- my psyche. Welfare was not an option. I
14 don't know why it wasn't an option.

15 Mom -- Mom never had welfare. She used to
16 wash clothes for loggers and we'd go up the road and get
17 their clothes and water and run it home and then we'd back
18 in from the road up in camp they'd pick up their clothes
19 and so she (indiscernible), and then we'd shoot animals.
20 And I was a good shot. I was a good shot. But grouse --
21 my big -- was my big catch, you know.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** What was your big catch?

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Grouse.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Grouse.

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Yeah, shooting grouse

1 with a .22. You got to be a damn good shot to hit a grouse
2 with a .22.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: (Indiscernible)

4 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Thank you. I was a
5 good shot. So I think with the -- all of that, I think
6 helped to develop different skills and -- and in different
7 ways. Both with Mom's and Dad's personalities, with Mom,
8 she used to run -- she used to run overnight shelter for
9 people who (indiscernible) and they'd stop at our place
10 because they'd be walking on the road and mom said, "Don't
11 walk on the road -- on the highway -- on the train, because
12 our people are killed," so mom ran death prevention.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

14 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: So they'd stay at our
15 place, you know.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

17 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Put a blanket on a floor
18 by stove. And then all the hobos -- Mom -- we didn't have
19 food, normal food, and especially when Dad would run away.
20 And the hobos, they -- they maybe sometimes there would be
21 20 hobos you know, on our train we used to count hobos, to
22 see how many hobos there were --

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow.

24 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- travelling from --
25 coming from the east coast. And they -- they had some kind

1 of hobo smoke signals, or something because when -- when
2 the train would pull over they'd all run over to our place
3 and Mom would get them to chop wood you know, and she'd
4 make them soup, rabbit soup, or whatever. So she -- she
5 ran -- you know how the Salvation Army runs their feeding
6 thing --

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- well, yeah. But any
9 time kids needed a safe place they'd come to our place and
10 she ran an overnight kid shelter too, you know, and -- and
11 that -- grandpa would give her -- 'atsiyan (ph) would give
12 us 20 fish, and she'd give 18 fish away to the old people
13 and to the some parents, but then they did it too, so we
14 had a -- you know, we had a system where --

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- people fed each
17 other, you know.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Maybe not lots, but we
20 didn't starve. We didn't starve. So those were my
21 teachings. And that's what laid my foundation.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I think. That -- that's
24 what didn't make me survive. Made me thrive.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** You know, with
2 creativity. And so working in court my first time that I
3 had as a woman, 17, 18-year-old woman was charged with
4 something, and she's pregnant, and she had on a man's pair
5 of pants, tied it with a rope, and they had a little
6 blanket over her because a man had raped her, and she was
7 pregnant. And she's standing in court and -- and I was
8 thinking, Oh, my God, that's my first client. She was from
9 down south. Who is there for her? You know. So I took
10 her to McDougall House, first I took her to STD clinic and
11 got her treatment there and I took her to McDougall's
12 House.

13 And working in -- in criminal court, and then
14 moving over to family court, and then we'd -- probably in
15 1973, three years later, I trained 17 family court workers
16 for Alberta and -- so that was '73.

17 In 1967 my niece, who I babysat from the time
18 I was seven till I was 15, had left home.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

20 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** She's now 15 and I'm 22,
21 okay. She comes to me pregnant.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Because my brother was
24 so sadistic when he was drinking her mother was afraid
25 she'd lose the baby, so she came to live with me. So her

1 and her baby, from grade 9 to 12 she lived with me, and
2 I -- I have to say I was -- I was like Attila the Hun for a
3 mother to her because it was going to be -- if it had to be
4 over my dead body, she was going to get her high school.
5 Like, you know --

6 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

7 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** She'd -- she'd -- and no
8 matter, if she was sick, I made her go to school. Anyway,
9 so I raised her baby for four years, and then she decided
10 to go home, and because of my belief, when she wanted to
11 take her baby with her even if that baby was my baby too.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

13 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** She took her baby back
14 up to our reserve.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Up to her reserve -- her
17 mom's reserve, and she got into meth. What they called
18 speed at the time.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

20 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And she became a
21 trafficker to pay for her -- pay for her drugs. And so in
22 Moose Jaw there was -- Legal Aid operated differently, than
23 Legal Aid does in other province and we had our own staff
24 lawyers, and then I was like the staff social worker.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** But I also worked in
2 court, you know, and I worked with families, et cetera.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And I helped get the
5 transition house going and one of them had a mentally
6 handicapped woman, she said, "Maggie, this is the best
7 thing that ever happened to me is when I went to that
8 'transmission' house."

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Transmission?

10 *(Laughter)*

11 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** She's mentally
12 handicapped, eh -- so cool. I think -- I think that those
13 kind of things -- and so I worked there for and -- and did
14 -- I did petitions for divorce, and I'd get it ready for
15 the lawyer and do all -- the lawyer would maybe spend an
16 hour with them before they went into divorce court because
17 I'd do everything.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And do the support.
20 While I was there I started -- I had a kid that he was
21 charged with 56 charges of theft, I said, "John, you're
22 going to go to jail." That's my counselling. "You're
23 going to go to jail, John." "You can't keep doing this."
24 So I told -- well, I think what he was stealing was car
25 parts and this what -- "Why don't you start a car club?"

1 "Are you stupid?" he said. "You need a \$90,000 car to have
2 -- have -- joined a car club." You know, I told him, "Why
3 don't you join a car club?"

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** So I told him "You can
6 start a hundred-dollar car club." You know, his car was
7 worth a hundred bucks. So I went ahead, and I did that,
8 and we got all the little -- (indiscernible) the liquids
9 and -- and they made their own roles and I had the judge
10 and cops involved and they started 1320 Car Club.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Wow.

12 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Isn't that cool, hey?

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

14 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** They called it crime
15 prevention. Anyway, so I think that all of that is
16 important because it's -- so Cherish went back and -- and
17 she gave her daughter to her mother, who was living with my
18 sadistic -- when he was drunk, sober, nicest man in the
19 world -- brother. And so was Cherish's dad --

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- who was on the
22 receiving end of Victor's -- of my brother, Victor's,
23 abusiveness when he was drunk. And they had ten kids that
24 were alive and four kids that were miscarried, and that's
25 the context that -- well, his name was [Nephew 1], but we

1 call him [Nephew 1's nickname].

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: That's Cherish's step-
4 dad. And so I came back to Alberta when my husband got
5 posted back.

6 And -- and then in Moose Jaw I helped get the
7 "transmission" house going, and then the friendship centre
8 going, and then we set up a detox centre, but it was not
9 a -- we call it a detox and assessment because we needed to
10 have a place to hold people to get into treatment because
11 they didn't -- there's no holding place, you know.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, okay.

13 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: So they're calling it
14 detox and assessment centre --

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

16 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- that provided a
17 little bit more room to be able to keep people sober until
18 they could get into treatment because we got court you
19 know, and we're appearing in court (indiscernible) and do
20 all that -- go jump around.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: (Indiscernible) the
23 system. I think that -- and then 1320 Car Club. We moved
24 back to Alberta, and so I went to work as a trainer at --
25 at the Nechi Institute, and the -- and the director -- he

1 was a really good visionary, but he wasn't a very good
2 finance keeper, so I took over a deficit three times the
3 aid budget and had to clean that up. And we started off
4 with six a day in training and then when I left there we
5 had 250 days of training and a summer program and we had
6 800 contract aides across Canada.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Wow.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** So that's about Mom's
9 determination, her role modeling, and her faith, really
10 strong faith. And when I -- and then I went to work in --
11 in -- I left Nechi after 16 years and I went to work in
12 residential schools in Ottawa.

13 When I was in Ottawa I'd go to hearings.
14 I -- I worked as kind of -- I would use the word mediator,
15 but I never was officially a mediator because I would
16 actually be able to go in with the people suing Canada.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And be in a private
19 setting separate from Canada with them you know.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And I wouldn't divulge
22 either way. I'd go, and I'd find some middle ground so
23 they'd come back into the room.

24 And -- and so through the years I'd see
25 Cherish off and on, but I was living quite a ways away.

1 And when I got the call that Cherish was missing and -- so
2 I started to make plans to fly back home, and then after I
3 got a call that she was missing then they had found her
4 body. And so I flew home and my nephew, [Nephew 1], who
5 was a very -- very -- very traumatized a man, by my
6 brother.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Cried very little. Mom
9 -- cried -- cried, but mostly she -- she would just
10 collapse, and she's -- I think she was vice principal of a
11 school, or something, at that time, and she just stopped --
12 bang. Went to bed, collapsed.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

14 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** The shock was too much
15 for her.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so when I got there
18 the house full and these -- these victim services workers
19 were there, and so I was polite to them and I was just,
20 "Here's some tea, you can have some tea." I just kept on
21 doing -- doing -- being a victim services worker, you know.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And when I got the news
24 I really -- when I was in Ottawa I really -- really cried.
25 I -- I -- I was crying for her death, and her -- she was an

1 honour student. She was a top athlete. She was on the
2 student council. She was a girl who had a bright future.
3 And my nephew had been sober for years before.

4 She came into her life and -- and so in this
5 blended family thing. And we all experience at one time or
6 another, and she wanted to go, I think to her local temple
7 is where -- seven blocks away -- store -- you know, close,
8 and my nephew said, "No." And so Mom said, "Well" --
9 because she's the biological mother and he's the step-
10 father, she said, "You control her too much."

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And, "No, she -- she can
13 go. She's fine. She can take care of herself. She's a
14 good girl." He said, "I'm not scared of what she's going
15 to do. I'm scared of what they're going to do."

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And -- and so there --
18 there was ceremonials from around that would come in and do
19 ceremonies. And -- and so then [Nephew 1] insisted on
20 going to identify the body in Kamloops.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** What year was this?

22 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Honestly, I can't
23 remember.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh, okay.

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Can't remember. I'd say

1 about 10 years -- I had 11 mini-strokes my years are not
2 straight, so, if I say something it would just be a guess.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay.

4 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I think about ten years.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** About ten years, okay.

6 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Maybe a little bit more.

7 I don't know.

8 Anyways, so I went with him to identify the
9 body, and we -- they had not done any reparative because
10 nobody was supposed be identifying the body. He didn't
11 need -- the cops identified; you know what I mean? Like --
12 but he said, "I have to see her to believe she's dead."

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

14 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And -- and she was so
15 bludgeoned. And [Nephew 1], who had extreme trauma from
16 his dad, had maybe two or three tears come down.

17 Me -- what I wanted to do, I wanted to scream
18 and puke and scream and puke and scream and puke. That's
19 what I wanted to do.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I wanted --

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Because you went with him,
23 correct?

24 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I went with him to
25 support him.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

2 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: So I couldn't scream and
3 I couldn't puke.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: You know. I couldn't
6 scream and I couldn't puke. And on our way back he talked
7 about every -- giving Shelley support you know, everything,
8 because it's Shelley's lost a child. That little girl's
9 been my child since she was three or four, you know --

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- that was his
12 daughter.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

14 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: He's really -- and he
15 was so proud of her -- so proud of her.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: What kind of girl she
18 was. So he talked about how this is her community. This
19 is her reserve. And people are here to support her and as
20 if he didn't lose a child too.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And that's something
23 that people forget, when people are step-parents they
24 think, oh, it's her child, or that's his child, that's --
25 so -- and there's ...

1 And the man that murdered Cherish, the -- the
2 circumstances around her murder was that this man had been
3 stopped by an Aboriginal police officer -- RCMP officer.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** He had been stopped by an
5 Aboriginal --

6 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Yeah.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** -- police officer ...

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Before he murdered
9 Cherish.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh.

11 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** When he was stopped he
12 had electrical tape open -- open, with the tape there on
13 his wall -- on the side of his van. He had a sheath -- a
14 knife with a sheath right, taped to his chair.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** He had a tire iron down
17 there, and rope. And the RCMP officer -- in my opinion, a
18 lot of factors with my -- just -- my judgment. He gave him
19 a 24 hour suspension, and he took his keys.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** So this man ran home,
22 got the keys, and picked up Cherish. He had a rape kit.
23 That cop went back to his -- his -- his car and checked in
24 the CPIC and found out that he was out on bail for
25 kidnapping, and attempted rape, and murder.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh.

2 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: All he had to do is
3 check CPIC. But to make up for that, which (indiscernible)
4 I have three family members that are RCMP officers, so
5 there are good officers, bad officers, whatever, you know,
6 good social workers, bad social workers.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: They brought in
9 [Inspector], who is a forensic RCMP officer and a lawyer --

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- to interview the
12 accused. They were going to make no mistakes that was
13 going to ever end up with an acquittal.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: That's the only case in
16 my community in my 46 years of working in criminal court --
17 not saying it doesn't happen in other places, but they did
18 that. They did that.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And after listening to
21 all of the experiences here, we were -- we were lucky, I
22 guess.

23 *[Two lines redacted - personal information].*

24 And the town of Merritt had a candlelight
25 ceremony, and they had a candlelight walk for Cherish, a

1 prayer, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: When we had her funeral,
4 I -- I worked with Justice -- Federal Justice people on
5 hundred cases across Canada, and residential school, and
6 Mitch Taylor drove up through blizzard, not knowing
7 Cherish, just knowing me, to be a support to me.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And me and the other
10 women, they're like the hand of God, you know, because I
11 was being a support to other people and they came to be my
12 support.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

14 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Most unlikely place --
15 Justice Canada, hey.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: Absolutely.

17 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: One guy and a thousand
18 others that don't match him, but, you know.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- it's okay. I -- I --
21 I -- I -- I got the hand of God with Mitch Taylor, and they
22 were there to support me.

23 And, so I had nightmares, and I went to see a
24 therapist. Therapist couldn't help me with my damn
25 nightmares. I got -- I had -- and I had been to therapy

1 three, four years, and then I'd stop, it made me -- as soon
2 as I hit another bump I'd go for another year and hit
3 another bump and I'd go there for two years. So I had a
4 lot -- a lot to work on. And I was going to ceremonies.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Really -- really going
7 to ceremonies. And I was working in residential school at
8 the time, which was difficult, but I went to ceremonies and
9 that helped me by working in residential schools, so
10 there's lots of healing and singing -- singing -- singing
11 is one of our medicines.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

13 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And crying is one of our
14 medicines, you know, and laughing is one of our medicines,
15 and dancing, and [D.] and I used to go dancing all the time
16 to try to help me with my trauma.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Which is great stuff,
19 you know.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I think, and also this
22 here. And I -- I don't think that attention is paid -- I
23 think some trauma programs, from residential school like
24 Tsow-Tun Le Lum program. Have you heard of it?

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Sorry, what was it?

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Tsow-Tun Le Lum, T-S-W-
2 O, Tun, T-U-N, L-A, L-U-M (sic), it's in Nanaimo, B.C.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** I don't believe so.

4 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Anyways they're funded
5 by the Aboriginal Foundation, and they set up a trauma
6 program for frontline workers.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** So I went to that and --
9 plus my therapy, plus my ceremony. And they also have a
10 grieving -- grieving workshop, and they have ceremonies.

11 And I had 15 family deaths when my niece died
12 in -- in three years.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Fifteen?

14 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Fifteen. So my -- my
15 last -- so my last -- my last -- the two -- last two guys
16 were my Elders, you know, they died. I said to God, I
17 said, "You said you wouldn't give me more than you could --
18 I could handle. You just crossed the line, Buddy." I
19 called him out. So since I bottomed out I picked up the
20 phone, phoned my friend, who ran that trauma program and
21 that grieving program.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And I said that, "You
24 know, I'm -- I'm over the top here. I need help." She
25 says, "We have a grief workshop starting on Monday." This

1 is Friday, the last funeral for one on my Elders, my last
2 Elder. Got on the plane on Sunday and flew out to -- to
3 Nanaimo.

4 You know, the hand of God, you know, I
5 did --

6 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

7 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- call Him out. He
8 heard me.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so I think that -
11 *[five lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].*

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

13 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Like supporting.
14 Finally, I thought, "Okay. God, I've tried everything I
15 can, you know, *[three lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].*

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** *[Two lines redacted*
18 *pursuant to Rule 55].*

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** *[Two lines redacted pursuant*
20 *to Rule 55].*

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Huh?

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** *[Two lines redacted pursuant*
23 *to Rule 55].*

24 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** No, I said --

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** *[One line redacted - personal*

1 *information*].

2 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** No. [*One line redacted*
3 *- personal information*].

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** [*One line redacted -*
6 *personal information*].

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** [*Two lines redacted -*
9 *personal information*].

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Oh.

11 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** But he ran his own
12 business, so he'd have to be running back and forth, you
13 know, to --

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- tend to things [*two*
16 *lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** [*Two lines redacted*
19 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** [*four lines redacted*
22 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** [*Ten lines redacted*
25 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: *[Three lines redacted*
3 *pursuant to Rule 55].*

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: *[Two lines redacted*
6 *pursuant to Rule 55].*

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: *[One line redacted*
9 *pursuant to Rule 55].*

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: *[One line redacted*
12 *pursuant to Rule 55].*

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Now.

14 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And so the whole
15 issue -- I think that our people through residential school
16 that outlawed our ceremony -- a lot of people say
17 residential school did it. I think outlawing of our
18 ceremonies did it because ceremonies give people a sense of
19 belonging, give them sense of -- a sense of ritual, of
20 meaning, of -- of responsibility.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Reciprocity, and
23 everybody's got to work to make that launch go -- go sun
24 dance every -- everybody has to contribute.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** You don't get no money
2 from government to do those things. It's a personal
3 responsibility as well.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And all of that meaning
6 and sense -- and a sense of identity -- sense of identity,
7 you know.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

9 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And outlawing of
10 ceremonies, and the opening in -- opening of -- opening of
11 -- I know it's not for this, but that's okay, I'm going to
12 tell you anyways, because you need to know this.

13 In mid-1800s there was a ceremony, and in
14 that ceremony the Elders were told, "We're in our midnight
15 and we'll come into daylight when Eagle lands on the moon.
16 When Eagle lands on the moon we'll become motivators."

17 Now, you know if I was sitting on the ground
18 in the mid-1800s, I don't know whether I'd be telling my
19 children, and grandchildren, and grandchildren, and
20 grandchildren, and grandchildren.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** In 1969 the first Native
23 alcoholic Aboriginal-focused program opened up in North
24 America from a traditional perspective.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And at the same week
2 that the astronauts landed on the moon and the message that
3 was sent back to earth was "The Eagle has landed."

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And our Aboriginal
6 alcoholic and drug treatment program opened up with
7 ceremony as being the center -- center post. With people
8 getting -- developing a sense of identity, sense of
9 belonging, sense of ritual, and sense of value --

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

11 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- for each other. [*Two*
12 *lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

14 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** [*Two lines redacted*
15 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** [*Two lines redacted*
18 *pursuant to Rule 55*]. I said, "Thank you, God. Thank you,
19 God. Thank you, God. Thank you, God."

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** "Thank you, God." I
22 have -- before that and since then I have a very -- very
23 strong belief in ceremonies, you know.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** But people -- you get

1 out of what it what you put into it.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And you get out of it
4 what you put into it, and so -- and I started National
5 Addictions Awareness Week in 1988, because I listened to
6 myself talking at conferences, and saying there's this many
7 kids in care, this many people in jail, and I thought -- I
8 came back one time and actually listened to what I said.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And I said, I'm selling
11 failure.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

13 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: I'll selling failure.
14 So Northwest Territories had an additions awareness week,
15 and the -- the -- the slogan they had was *Keep the Circle*
16 *Strong*. So I asked them if we could start it.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Start one, but across
19 Canada. So I talked to Epps, Jake Epp, he's a minister
20 (indiscernible), he said -- and his staff, his -- his
21 political staff, and his policy people. He says, "If Jake
22 Epp declared national addictions week he'd have to declare
23 national shoe week." I says, "If people were dying of God
24 damn shoes, they should have a national shoe week, but our
25 people are dying of addictions. So, Buddy, with -- without

1 Epp, it's happening. It is happening. We're going to make
2 it happen."

3 He says, "You -- you have no authority." I
4 told him, "I have all the authority in the world. I
5 declare it. We have 25 communities involved. I don't care
6 whether Jake Epp gets on the engine or the caboose because
7 this train has left the station."

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** We had 25 communities
10 and then we had moved it up over three years 80 committees,
11 400, 800, 1200.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Wow.

13 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Just under a thousand
14 people involved across Canada. And including white people.
15 And so it's celebrating success. Coming from a place of
16 celebrating success. If people are sober for a day,
17 celebrate it, you know.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** If people have a child
20 that's not FASD, then celebrate it. Celebrate whatever.
21 And in the meantime we -- we did -- the truth -- we did
22 addictions training, but the truth of the matter we
23 secretly did trauma -- a lot of trauma work.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** But we didn't we call it

1 trauma. We called addictions. We didn't -- you know, we
2 had to teach about addictions, but that's not -- government
3 didn't believe that that was their job --

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- to do that, so we did
6 it. And we snuck it in, we got -- got away with it.

7 In 1992 I started Healing Our Spirit
8 Worldwide in Australia, New Zealand, United States, and
9 Canada, and the first world conference, we had -- and see
10 we have an alcoholic, like we have residential school
11 survivor, we got an AIDS person, they all got separate
12 conferences. We got our conferences together and said
13 "Let's look at our traditional healing." From a lot of
14 perspective.

15 So we have every four years, and the next one
16 will be in New Zealand, I mean in Australia next year. We
17 generally have 20 sections, 200 speakers, and each country
18 pays for their own event, you know, they're going to --
19 they're going to raise the money and at a national level.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Wow.

21 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And -- and so the whole
22 thing is about hope, and I think about building bridges in
23 our communities, and I think that, and then 2002 I started
24 a National Day of Healing and Reconciliation because I was
25 doing litigation.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And litigation meant --
3 it's like walking through a slough with gum boots on.
4 Muskeg.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

6 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Like you know, you can
7 only walk that long in litigation for so long.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: I needed to have hope.
10 I needed my community to refocus. Yes, we're in
11 litigation, but we got to look about healing amongst
12 ourselves. And then I was on the founding -- one of the --
13 one of the board members with the Action Healing Foundation
14 and they set up all the trauma programs across Canada. And
15 that's about getting the boots out of muskeg, you know.
16 And having --

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- a traditional focus.
19 And so I think that one of the things I was thinking about,
20 and I really struggled whether I wanted to talk about with
21 Cherish, because [Nephew 1]'s -- my nephew, [Nephew 1], and
22 my brother, Victor, has as much to do with Cherish, you
23 know.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: I'm not a novelty in my

1 community, you know. Many of us frontline workers have had
2 to do a lot of work on ourselves you know, really lots of
3 work.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Hard work. When our
6 families become missing and murdered we're the go-to
7 people, and people say, "What kind of support do you have
8 for yourself?" Well, that -- that doesn't quite do it.
9 And we have -- now we have the missing and murdered women,
10 and then we're going to have the day school, and then we
11 have the foster care, and these funds are going to be set
12 up, I don't know, a hundred million for -- for
13 (indiscernible) -- well, for foster kids and 50 million for
14 that other thing, 750 million, whatever. Not much money.
15 But anyways, I think that -- while we did a reasonably good
16 job of -- in getting people sober because we had a training
17 center in Nechi (ph).

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And from 1980 to 1992
20 when NNADAC started with a budget, they had -- they -- that
21 were there before, but they started to use their budget,
22 our post-secondary people increased by 1800 percent in 12
23 years because people were sobering up and they were going
24 back to school.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** What -- often -- you
2 know, you really needed more trauma work, you know, in our
3 communities, and we have a very -- very -- extremely
4 pandemic level of child sexual abuse in our communities.
5 And girls don't hit the street on their own. There are
6 things that -- one old man says, "What are you running from
7 and what are you running to?" You know, and they're
8 running from --

9 So there needs to be some mechanism for
10 families to get help and looking at the Justice, and
11 working with families to be able to keep the kids safe, and
12 get families treatment for incest and sexual abuse that is
13 happening within the family and the community.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And that's pre -- I
16 don't know if it's preventative because we already got a
17 tertiary situation when you got incest going on.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** But it might be
20 preventive for suicide, and might be preventive for girls
21 and boys going working on the street.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And the healthier the
24 parents and grandparents can be, I think that the more
25 chances there is of families getting health. So there

1 needs to be resources. Like when we set up the Aboriginal
2 Healing Foundation, we wanted to put it -- the interest
3 rate was 19 and 20 percent.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: When that was set up.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

7 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And we're only allowed
8 to invest in that two or three percent of the government
9 triple A funding, that's all we were allowed to -- the
10 government's criteria.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Which meant that the
13 fund would stop at seven years.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: We'd run out of money.

16 So --

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: And so that fund could
19 have lasted forever, being invested in 19 or 20 percent --

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- of the day, it's not
22 what it is now. So we really need to have trauma programs
23 in an aid budget, you know.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Side -- side by side

1 alcohol and drug treatment centres, or in the same
2 building, whatever. I don't care how it's done. Staffed
3 by Aboriginal people, and -- and managed by Aboriginal
4 people.

5 And -- and -- and that's -- that's a really
6 important issue, and we need to do more than short-term
7 planning, and I'll just use -- government works four years
8 at a time. Okay. They don't plan.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** So the short-term
11 planning and long-term planning there's a big difference.
12 And what that man that started the pre-law program he had a
13 -- it's been 40 years now since he did that. We have --

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- thousands of
16 Aboriginal lawyers. We need to have Aboriginal specialists
17 that have a degree in child and family trauma psychology
18 from an Aboriginal spiritual perspective.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

20 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And money needs to be
21 set aside for summer programs because we have thousands of
22 social workers who could work on their master's in summer
23 program because they all work, they got grandchildren they
24 got to support, et cetera, you know.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: We need to have that.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: We need to have that.

4 And -- and so that mean -- and you know if -- if you -- if
5 you look at the cost of -- and the savings.

6 I guess one of the women that's testified
7 here, she was attempt people attempting murder
8 (indiscernible) a number of times.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: (Indiscernible).

10 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: You know how much she
11 earned --

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

13 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- after she sobered up?

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Eighteen or 20 years
16 now, three million dollars, working in work -- work that
17 she does. What a contribution -- plus she's healthy.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

19 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: She's well.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: You know. So looking at
22 it from a life saving perspective; that's one perspective.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

24 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: But the other one is was
25 looking at the money it puts back into the economy. I

1 think that we have to have those facilities, staffed with
2 an adequate amount of money, not adequate, equal money to
3 other trauma programs. Like, I'll just use some of the --
4 there's some really big shot white facilities, and they --
5 they got money to burn, you know. They -- they -- they,
6 and the government funds them.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And -- and so we need to
9 have parallel facilities that have traditional healers and
10 -- and -- and also psychologists.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Aboriginal psychologists
13 and psychiatrists, and that requires a 20-year education
14 investment specifically in the area of mental health.
15 Aside -- we got -- so we could encourage some of our social
16 workers to move into child and family psychology and give
17 them summer programs and set aside money, that's a
18 recommendation, you know, set aside money --

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

20 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- for -- for -- for
21 those people to be able to be those summer programs. To be
22 able to get their master's and their doctorate.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I sat on the committee
25 for Children Services and we -- I asked the province to set

1 up a fund for people that were single parents to go to
2 social work, and it was funded, and then one of our
3 graduates wanted to go to Manitoba, and they said, "Oh, no,
4 we can't pay for your master's degree." And I says, "You
5 want all of our social workers to be receptionists? No.
6 That's not going to happen. We're going to fund them right
7 to our doctorate, you know. And if we get less people at
8 the bottom end it's too bad."

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Let those guys get their
11 doctorate and then we have our own professors.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

13 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** You know, that's
14 important.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so the same thing
17 with this issue that's a very -- the other thing is -- and
18 you right think this is not related to missing murdered
19 women, but darling, it is.

20 One of the biggest businesses in Canada is
21 foster care. And the Foster Parents' Association of each
22 province -- they -- they pull the strings with the
23 government because the government -- that's their -- that's
24 the only people they have to give those kids to.

25 Well, we have our kinship care. We have our

1 kinship care both that are in -- connected to Children
2 Services, but you probably have an equal number kinship
3 care people who will not touch -- stick your money up your
4 you know where.

5 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

6 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Where the sun don't
7 shine.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: I'm going to keep my
10 grandchildren myself.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Because I don't want you
13 to touch them. If we had funding for kinship care
14 associations that would include Métis, Treaty, and Inuit in
15 our communities.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Who could teach from a
18 traditional parenting perspective, and help some of those
19 grandparents who -- who just think the stick is the answer.
20 You know. Just because they're grandparents and just
21 because they're -- you know, they've been to residential
22 school, I don't care. You know, they can still learn a new
23 way of parenting, a new way of being grandparent.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: Through a kinship care

1 association. Because they won't go near the Foster
2 Parents' Association. And they're a big political body.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** If we had a kinship care
5 association in every province in Canada that had all of the
6 resources that the Foster Parents' Association has.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

8 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Would that solve the
9 problem? It would be another beginning. I mean we have
10 new beginnings every day, you know. And if we have that
11 20-year investment in postsecondary for master's level in
12 child and family psychology from an intergenerational
13 trauma perspective from the government.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Then -- and the last
16 thing is around the RCMP, I really want your researchers
17 for the -- I've been listening, and I thought -- I think --
18 I'm a trainer, you know, I think that there's -- there's
19 little -- there's little cuts and splices of what they're
20 saying.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** If -- if they took the
23 splice and when they talk to the RCMP officer and say to
24 the RCMP officer said, "Well, call us back after Christmas
25 you know, and we'll -- we'll investigate or --"

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- or "She's probably
3 out partying." Just that one little tip. If they took
4 that, it wouldn't even be half a minute, if they put a
5 whole half hour of just tips from -- from these women's --
6 people's testimonies and use it as a training device for
7 RCMP officers so they can see what other officers have
8 done.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: You know, and -- and --
11 and what -- and what that RCMP officer did to me, you know,
12 and I think we could make more progress. And I also think
13 that the family junior court, as Marion's (ph) done in
14 Vancouver, having -- having an Elder in family court. And
15 -- and -- and if possible in terms of changing how family
16 court is done, and who does family court, and what kind of
17 infrastructure is around family court.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

19 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: You know, and -- and
20 getting more Aboriginal family court judges. And there's
21 enough, you know, young -- young lawyers --

22 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

23 MS. MAGGIE HODGSON: -- you know, that could
24 -- could do that --

25 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- and I think that
2 those infrastructures make a difference because when
3 Children Services go -- women living high risk lifestyle
4 they just pick the kid and you know, they -- they actually
5 say, "You know, you don't -- and there's nothing you can do
6 about it, you know. I'm taking your child and nothing you
7 can do about it, you know. And it you might as well sign
8 this paper, you know."

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And that's what they
11 told my niece. When -- when my niece was -- one the one
12 that was using -- when she had her baby Children Services
13 took the baby right out of -- right out of the hospital.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** I was a mother. I
16 wasn't drinking. I had other children. Yes, I was only
17 23.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** But they said, you know,
20 "She -- it's not a proper home." I just told the judge,
21 "What's not a proper home?" And I wasn't then who I was --
22 I am now, where I'm very -- very confident now. I was
23 quite mousy, when it comes fighting to my family it was a
24 different situation.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so the social worker
2 said, "They only have three bedrooms and they have two
3 children already and they're going to four children, they
4 need another bedroom." I told the judge, "You know,
5 there's 600 other trailers, house trailers in our parking
6 lot, you better go apprehend all those white families, you
7 know, because --

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- they only three
10 bedrooms, you know."

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

12 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And -- and so would the
13 judge listen to me? But [Ex-husband] actually built
14 another -- he was earning \$300 a month at the time and the
15 bedroom cost us \$1,500 you know, in '67 a lot of money.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** It took us three months
18 to get to the second hearing for court, and when we went to
19 pick up our baby, [Niece 1]'s child, there were six babies
20 in that foster home -- room. In -- lined up in cribs,
21 bottle -- walking, you know.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And that's allowed, hey?

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

25 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so and -- and when I

1 fought with Children Services in Regina there was 25 kids
2 in a foster home where the foster father raped a girl, and
3 three weeks later she ended up on the street. And so I
4 called Children Services and I called -- so Children
5 Service called the foster parents and told them, so they
6 beat her. When they got -- when she went home, for
7 telling.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so I fought them. I
10 had to actually resign from my job to fight them. To get
11 the foster home shut down, you know.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

13 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And so I think that --
14 and we need more trauma -- short-term trauma programs for
15 frontline workers. There are a lot of our Aboriginal
16 social workers who had a lot of -- never mind what they're
17 dealing with.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** It's their own trauma in
20 their own lives, and having a shorter-term trauma programs
21 that they can go to. That's -- that's they don't have to
22 pay for, that's paid for by the government.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** That's -- I think that
25 that's really imperative.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Those are really -- those are
2 really strong recommendations. And they do make a lot of
3 sense. And especially in terms of you know, of around the
4 kinship care.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Yeah.

6 **MS. ALANA LEE:** They -- there maybe be
7 concerns sometimes and they end up talking too much
8 (indiscernible) parents know there will be concerns with --
9 with some family members, but those family members still
10 love and those kids are still growing up with an identity.

11 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** M'hm.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** You know, if they're safe,
13 that's a lot different than foster parents (indiscernible)
14 they just want...

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** And in terms of Children
16 Services I -- I think that -- I think that the Commission
17 here means well, and God, and I talk to your Chief
18 Commissioner, I says, "You know, you're going to be meeting
19 with all of the -- all of the -- the different departments,
20 you know, they're going to have a -- between Commission and
21 all the department, well, good for you." I says, "But you
22 know what? The people who should be sitting in these seats
23 here are the frontline managers, the in-take worker, you
24 know, the social worker, they need to hear the effects, not
25 from a politician, they can change their mind by listening

1 to the -- the deathly effects of some of the things --
2 decisions that they make."

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Maybe you might only
5 convince five percent, one percent, I don't care if it's
6 one percent, one percent is better than meeting with a
7 bunch bureaucrats who's going to be -- I mean a bunch of
8 government people who are going to be voted out in four
9 years, you know.

10 And two levels need to be dealt with. People
11 who come from a colonist mind think if they talk to other
12 colonists they're going to fix things, well you know
13 what --

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** -- sometimes people -- I
16 started a national day here, and reconciliation because I
17 want to develop shared understanding.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** That's how we develop
20 shared understanding if you talk to -- not only those guys
21 up there, but people down here. Developing shared
22 understanding takes time, from both of our perspectives,
23 you know.

24 So, and there's one other recommendation, I
25 was trying to think about. What I -- I think that -- I

1 think that -- I think that after this Inquiry is over and
2 they have all these -- I don't know what, I don't -- I was
3 -- I learned to be -- learned how to be a kick boxer with
4 my mouth, you know. So I have to tone it down to make it
5 so it's palatable. Like, if they have that trauma fund for
6 the foster -- kids in foster care, they have the trauma
7 fund for the day students you know, and then they're going
8 to set up a trauma fund, like, one plus one makes three,
9 you know.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

11 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Fifty million is going
12 do nothing, you think, bang -- bang -- bang, nothing. A
13 hundred million might do something. A hundred and fifty
14 million, I think that -- I think that more and longer --
15 20-year consideration, like getting enough of our people
16 who have masters and their doctorate in child and family
17 psychology, I think, for me, is a priority from a spiritual
18 perspective and from a ceremonial perspective, that's
19 really important.

20 And -- and it maybe it's too -- too -- too
21 long term thinking but you know the guy that started pre-
22 law, you know, we have thousands of lawyers, and we got a
23 model that's been shown with how viable it is, and we're
24 getting our few judges now.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** Yeah, it took us 40
2 years to get there, but I don't care, I'll be dead, you
3 know.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** But if we can have 40
6 years from now year we're still not burying our kids and
7 not burying our women, I think we need to go for it.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

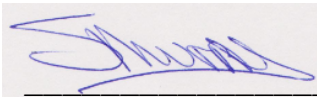
9 **MS. MAGGIE HODGSON:** That's it.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Thank you, Maggie. Thank
11 you.

12 --- Upon adjourning at 5:51 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shannon Munro, 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.



Shannon Munro

March 7, 2018