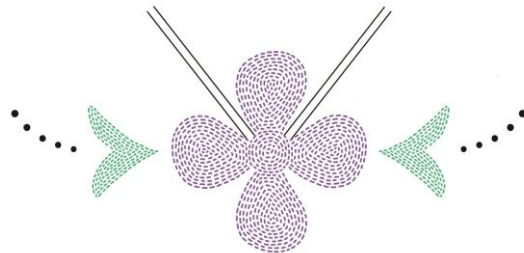


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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  
Nuu-Chah-Nulth MMIWG Gathering  
Tseshaht First Nation [Ts'ishaa7ath] - Maht Maws  
Port Alberni, British Columbia**



**PUBLIC**

**Tuesday September 12, 2017**

**Statement - Volume 172  
Wayne Keitlah, Cynthia Keitlah,  
Rowena Cootes and Matthew Titian,  
In relation to Nadine Marshall**

**Statement gathered by Wendy van Tongeren,  
Commission Counsel**

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## II

### NOTE

The use of square brackets [ ] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Incorrectly transcribed information is indicated with a strikethrough mark. Susan Grant, Legal Assistant with National Inquiry, made all amendments on August 8-9, 2018 at Vancouver, British Columbia. Ms. Grant listening to the original recording to make all amendments.

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<b>Commission Counsel: Wendy van Tongeren</b>	
<b>Documents submitted with testimony: none.</b>	

1 Tseshaht First Nation /Port Alberni, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, September 12, 2017

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** All right. So it's  
4 about 23 minutes after 1:00 and today is September 12<sup>th</sup>,  
5 2017.

6 And so I have some good people with me here  
7 today. And it's Wendy van Tongeren who is speaking. And  
8 we're here for the purpose of conducting another interview  
9 in Port Alberni.

10 And so I'm going to start with a lovely lady  
11 to my right. So if you could just say your name, first  
12 name, last name, and then spell -- if they're difficult  
13 names, spell both of them, and if not ---

14 **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** Okay. My name is Rowena  
15 Cootes, R-O-W-E-N-A and C-O-O-T-E-S.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you.

17 I don't think you did it last time,  
18 Gertrude, did you?

19 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** No, I didn't.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. Can't forget  
21 you.

22 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** My name is Gertie  
23 Pierre and I am an Elder to the Inquiry from Sechelt.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. I'm old but  
25 I'm not an elder now.

1                   **MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON:** My name is Maureen  
2 Knighton. That's M-A-U-R-E-E-N, K-N-I-G-H-T-O-N. I'm the  
3 Quu'asa Urban Mom's Worker and the Support Person here  
4 today.

5                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Thank you so  
6 much.

7                   **MS. DIANA WING:** Diana Wing (phonetic).

8                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Wayne Keitlah, K-E-I-T-  
9 L-A-H.

10                  **MR. MATTHEW TITIAN:** I'm Matthew Titian, T-  
11 I-T-I-A-N.

12                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Cynthia Keitlah, K-E-  
13 I-T-L-A-H. I am the sister of the deceased.

14                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And who's left?  
15 Does anyone have an objection if I turn the camera on? No.  
16 Okay. Is there video? I don't see.

17                   So this is amazing, what your community is  
18 doing. I think it's exactly what people were intending at  
19 the initial stages of the Inquiry, to just make sure that  
20 it's steered by the community, steered by -- you know, the  
21 idea of having the comfort of the community and then people  
22 step out and speak and then step back in. And these other  
23 buildings have all that support to just -- it's a wonderful  
24 way to do it and I just feel so honoured to bear witness to  
25 this, what your community has designed, what you're doing.

1                   Oh, sorry. That's my size 10s getting in  
2                   your way.

3                   So I'm a lawyer with the Inquiry. I've been  
4                   a lawyer in British Columbia for almost 40 years and I  
5                   spent most of my career actually practising criminal law  
6                   and then I retired from that and I got my yoga teaching  
7                   certificate to make up for all those years. And then I was  
8                   invited to join the Inquiry, which I did do in January of  
9                   this year. It's an amazing experience.

10                  So the purpose here is that what you say --  
11                  and it's one of the reasons why we record it -- is that the  
12                  Commissioners are investigating. They're inquiring and  
13                  then they will be reporting on certain issues which are  
14                  actually written out in what is called the Terms of  
15                  Reference, which is kind of like a grocery list of things  
16                  that they have to do.

17                  And the main thing that makes this just a  
18                  little bit slightly more complicated than just telling a  
19                  narrative, telling an experience, is the Commissioners in  
20                  these Terms of Reference are asked to identify what it is  
21                  that systemically is contributing to the vulnerability of  
22                  Indigenous women and girls and LGBT two-spirited people.

23                  So I'm sure you can think of a number of  
24                  systemic things that contribute. But an example would be -  
25                  - you know, I think a clear example would be a policy that

1 the police would have that if somebody reported someone  
2 missing they had to wait 48 hours before they did  
3 something.

4 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That would be an  
6 example. But there's many examples. There's examples like  
7 a woman has her children taken away so she no longer gets  
8 Social Assistance, and so she can't -- doesn't have an  
9 apartment any more. So clearly that contributes to her  
10 vulnerability, right?

11 And that's a -- these are policies and  
12 systems that have developed over the years, ironically, in  
13 order to maintain a safety net for people. And it ends up  
14 being the opposite because there's trust broken when things  
15 that one is expecting is taken away without them really  
16 appreciating what the rules are and without having anyone  
17 else who will look after those responsibilities.

18 So I'm just inviting you, when you give your  
19 narrative about your lost family member -- and I'm not sure  
20 if -- I think, Wayne, you could say that she was found,  
21 yeah. So it's -- and was it actually articulated to be a  
22 homicide? Yeah.

23 So when you describe -- and you will decide  
24 amongst yourselves who will do the telling. When you  
25 describe it, just talk about things that you believe are

1 relevant from the heart that you want to say, because I  
2 think it's important that you're here to actually -- to  
3 speak and have others bear witness on what you're saying  
4 because this works at so many levels.

5 There's the information but there's also the  
6 opportunity for you to once again bring this to the fore  
7 and to process it with a view to engage in a path of  
8 healing.

9 But from the information collection aspect,  
10 see if you can intertwine in the story about what happened  
11 to your loved one perhaps disappointments you had or even  
12 gratitude that you had for agencies that either didn't help  
13 or did help. And usually in these things the agencies --  
14 it could be Child Welfare, there could be school, it could  
15 be a hospital, it could be a priest, could be paramedics,  
16 it could be the coroner.

17 So you know with whom you had connections  
18 during all of this and you just -- you can wait until the  
19 end and talk about that and tell the story first and then  
20 go back or -- but that's -- I'm just sharing that with you  
21 so that you know that's what the Commissioners would like  
22 to hear as well as -- as long as you and the many others  
23 who are coming forward are saying that something didn't  
24 work well, it's coming -- well, it's coming often enough.

25 And it goes beyond just the fact that



1           somebody has been murdered. It also has to do with the  
2           whole scenario about dealing with that before, during, and  
3           after.

4                        So what needs to happen now is for me to be  
5           quiet so that people can talk. Because this is going to  
6           Commissioners, one further thing I would say; you saw me  
7           all struggling with trying to pronounce your -- pronounce  
8           and spell your names, so if you use anyone's name, if you  
9           do remember and we'd really appreciate it if you just spell  
10          it. And if you don't do that we'll have to go back at the  
11          end.

12                       And similarly, if you decide that -- to step  
13          in to say something, because we're dealing with the  
14          recording devices, if you could just say, "Matthew here,"  
15          so that we always know who's talking, okay? And I know  
16          you'll forget and we'll promise to forgive each other in  
17          advance for not doing that. But I might just pipe in and  
18          say, "That was Matthew or that was Cynthia." Okay?

19                       **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

20                       **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So I really won't  
21          interrupt very much at all. I'll just take some notes and  
22          might ask some questions if it looks like it's appropriate.  
23          But it's mostly important to hear you speak.

24                       **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I always had a lot of  
25          anger. I went through my grievance already. I went

1 through everything. And then I -- there was no help from  
2 anybody in any agency in Victoria. The MCU, they were no  
3 help. We phoned them every week asking, "What's going on?"

4 Same thing happened with my mom's husband.  
5 They closed his case file.

6 I just feel like we're just being  
7 discriminated against everything in Victoria. And I deal  
8 with that on a daily basis over there. It's just --  
9 they're no help over there. No one is.

10 All my family, they all live here in Port  
11 Alberni and I'm alone by myself now in Victoria. And it's  
12 time for me to move back home.

13 And the way I deal with my anger is  
14 drinking. I don't want to do that any more. I just have  
15 too much anger towards everybody in Victoria like the MCU,  
16 paramedics, everybody. We get treated with discrimination  
17 on a daily basis over there.

18 But with my mom, she lives in a part of town  
19 that she never goes to. She never leaves downtown. She's  
20 always downtown. There's no reason why she should be in  
21 Esquimalt that far in Esquimalt. She's never crossed that  
22 bridge. And you know my mom because we lived in Port  
23 Alberni for about 20 plus years before she passed away.

24 Last thing I remember is that she said she  
25 was going to come back. She was friends with some guy in a

1 wheelchair. Now that guy is nowhere to be found in -- up  
2 in Victoria.

3 I don't know. It's just hard for me to be  
4 in Victoria myself. But it's my home. It was my mom's  
5 home too. That's the only reason why I'm staying in  
6 Victoria because if I leave Victoria, like if I had made my  
7 mom -- but I don't know. I just ---

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What happened,  
9 Wayne?

10 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I don't know. She was -  
11 - it was her payday. We were drinking at my brother's.  
12 Then she said she was going to step outside for a bit.  
13 Said she'll be right back five minutes later. She said she  
14 was just going to go to the store. She never came back.

15 Two days later Steven phoned, told me that.  
16 I said, "Have you heard from Mommy?" And that's when he  
17 told me, "Mom is -- Grandma, she was found dead behind the  
18 hockey rink."

19 Like, the cops (inaudible). I asked the  
20 paramedics what happened. They didn't say anything to me.  
21 And now, I don't know what happened. It's -- no one's  
22 given me any answers over there.

23 Now I lost touch with my brothers. I lost  
24 touch with my sister. We hardly ever see each other. I'm  
25 just tired of doing things all by myself. I have a few

1 friends but that's it. Like, they're -- I don't know. I  
2 just need to get of Victoria but I can't because I have a  
3 tie with my mom. I don't want to leave but I do.

4 That's my opinion on the MCU. They're  
5 useless.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What does the MCU  
7 stand for, Wayne?

8 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Major Crimes Unit. That  
9 was who was dealing with the cases. I've forgot the name  
10 of the officer that was doing the case for my mom.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is that in  
12 Esquimalt?

13 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, Island MCU.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, so is that ---

15 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Victoria PD.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- Victoria City?

17 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, it was Victoria PD  
18 that took the case and they gave to Island MCU.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so that's the  
20 Victoria RCMP?

21 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I think so. But I  
22 definitely forgot the name of the officer who was doing my  
23 mom's case because my late grandfather, he was calling in  
24 too every week to see what -- if there was any news on my  
25 mom. And every week it was the same thing: nothing.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** There is an  
2 organization that can help you with -- if an issue for you  
3 is finding out what happened to your mom and if that can be  
4 done through documents. There is an organization called  
5 Family Information Liaison Unit which is -- you can get a  
6 number by contacting victim services, for example. And  
7 they're providing services kind of parallel to the services  
8 that the Inquiry is providing for people who participate.

9                   But one of the things that they do is they  
10 ask for documents for you, like, coroner's reports,  
11 paramedic documents, that type of thing.

12                   ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
13 Well, who's close who's to say this to him? Who's to tell  
14 him that, "You should look here" when he's already annoying  
15 the police people already?

16                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, I don't know  
17 if he -- have you been in touch with them?

18                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Not for quite some time.

19                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** FILU?

20                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But for the first couple  
21 of years I was.

22                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** With FILU?

23                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Not FILU, but just with  
24 the MCU.

25                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. No, it's a -

1 - it's not a police organization.

2 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** I know. I know that.  
3 But who is telling us if the police aren't telling  
4 anything. Who's going to tell him that you can look here  
5 or that option wasn't there for him; that's what he's  
6 saying.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I thought because  
8 the people who are working for FILU, their job is to help  
9 him.

10 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The police, it's  
12 not their job to help him.

13 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that's why they  
15 (inaudible). Their job was to try to solve the murder.

16 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm. And you can --  
17 I can really feel how angry Wayne is. For one, it scared  
18 me to talk to him because he knew the truth; he knew a lot  
19 more than I did.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. That is  
21 Cynthia speaking.

22 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** I was scared for a  
23 long time to approach him or his brother and sister, which  
24 (inaudible) sister [led us astray], you know. It took away  
25 that time from us. And the fact that I'm his aunt and

1 she's my sister and the whole thing just terrified me  
2 because you know, I felt guilty not knowing the answers,  
3 too afraid to know the answers.

4 And I was kind of like in this lost cloud  
5 where Wayne is but in my own area. I don't know where, I  
6 was just, okay, if I don't go this way I'll be fine. If I  
7 go that way a little bit, I'll (inaudible) because that was  
8 my dad's area.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

10 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** And he'd call her Didi  
11 and we called her Vi. She used to be called Viola. She  
12 took out a great big piece of my dad's heart when she left.

13 If there was something I could do or say to  
14 my dad, you know? It was hurt there, hurt here, and not  
15 understanding.

16 The phone would ring periodically about the  
17 case and disappointment in his voice saying that they told  
18 us nothing, you know, phoned to tell us there is nothing.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

20 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** And I didn't even want  
21 to question them. I didn't want to go that far as to find  
22 out how he was feeling or whatnot because I know he -- it  
23 was hard. It was hard losing my sister. It was hard. She  
24 just -- it just seemed like it shattered the whole family,  
25 losing my sister. And it was just like, do we walk this

1 way, you know? We get more cracked.

2 It was just walking away gently around the  
3 subject, her because there was just so much unknown in my  
4 area that I feel that wasn't answered, that wasn't saying,  
5 "It's okay to go on," go on because I'm more anxious to  
6 prove, like, the whole thing is not alright. It's just not  
7 alright ---

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** --- to go forward.

10 It's just like whatever we get, like, what my dad was  
11 hoping for is not going to happen. It would just help him  
12 at ease to move forward, to move on. And we were all just  
13 holding our breath, I guess, figuring out what to make of  
14 it. We're not getting any information about what happened.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Can you tell me a  
16 little bit about like, when this happened?

17 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** In the summertime.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What month?

19 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** In -- yeah, and they  
20 phoned me. The phone calls you mean or which part?

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, when she went  
22 missing.

23 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Oh.

24 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She didn't go missing.  
25 She was just found August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.



1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

2                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She was only gone for  
3 three or four days out of our absence because she ---

4                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

5                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- used to keep in  
6 contact with me or my brother at all times.

7                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

8                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And then there was -- it  
9 was just weird. Like, she never contacted us for five days  
10 and that's not like her.

11                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Right. And  
12 actually, you know, I've heard that probably a better way  
13 of describing what happens to you when this -- they  
14 disappear.

15                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

16                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Right? It's --  
17 they just disappear and then they're found sometimes.

18                   So what year was that?

19                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Twenty-twelve (2012).

20                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And it was in the  
21 summer, you say?

22                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

23                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And then you said  
24 that the body was actually found in Esquimalt?

25                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** In behind the hockey

1 rink.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, near the  
3 hockey rink.

4 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: It was ---

5 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you know the  
6 date for that?

7 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Pardon?

8 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you know the  
9 date for that? How much time passed, approximately?

10 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: I don't know. It was  
11 like, five hours because they found her. It was an  
12 employee that found her. It was early in the morning when  
13 they found her. They say she wasn't there that long.

14 MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Was she in the inside  
15 or the outside?

16 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: She was outside by the  
17 garbage dump.

18 MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: Oh, yeah, a bin.

19 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And where is it  
20 now?

21 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: What do you mean?

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was anyone ever  
23 considered to be a suspect or charged or anything like  
24 that?

25 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Nothing. Nobody. I

1           couldn't deal with it any more and so my brother, my  
2           younger brother, took the next of kin. So there was my  
3           brother Steven Andrew. He's not here with us but he took  
4           over next of kin for my mom. I couldn't -- it was just too  
5           much for me.

6                           **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I totally  
7           understand, yeah. So and did you say you had a sister,  
8           Wayne?

9                           **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Raven (phonetic). Well,  
10          I have two brothers, Thomas and Steven.

11                          **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And what's  
12          your mom's name?

13                          **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Nadine.

14                          **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Nadine?

15                          **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

16                          **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Can you spell that  
17          for me?

18                          **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** N-A-D-I-N-E.

19                          **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Nadine, okay. Now,  
20          was her name Keitlah as well?

21                          **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, she was still  
22          married. Marshall.

23                          **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Marshall?

24                          **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. She still had her  
25          married -- marriage name.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so who is the  
2                   eldest of the three?

3                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I am.

4                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So there's Steven  
5                   and then?

6                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I'm the oldest. There's  
7                   me, Steven, Raven, and Thomas.

8                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So that's  
9                   that family tree. Did your mom have a man in her life at  
10                  the time she passed?

11                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** He passed away three  
12                  months before my mom did and they closed that file too.

13                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

14                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Because -- yeah, that's  
15                  a whole different story right there with him. His name was  
16                  Cheyanne, C-H-E-Y-A-N-N-E.

17                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And his last name?

18                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Billy. I believe so.

19                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was that in  
20                  Esquimalt?

21                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** He's from Powell River.

22                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

23                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, the cops closed  
24                  his file too.

25                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So there's

1 Nadine; and Nadine and Cynthia, you're sisters?

2 MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH: (Inaudible) Yep.

3 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: What's your  
4 relationship to her, Nadine?

5 ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

6 She's my sister. Nadine King was my sister.

7 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm just trying to  
8 figure (inaudible).

9 MS. ROWENA COOTES: Well, we were just --  
10 Rowena.

11 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: How do you spell  
12 the name? R-O-W-E-N-A?

13 MS. ROWENA COOTES: Yes.

14 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That was lucky.  
15 So it sounds like Wayne has the most  
16 information, direct information, because he was actually  
17 there. And so most of what you have heard has been  
18 somebody telling you something.

19 ~~MS. KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES] M'hm. Then  
20 when we saw the body she had multiple wounds. Like, she  
21 was killed.

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. So was that  
23 Raven you were talking to?

24 ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

25 No, it was Nadine.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No, but didn't you  
2 say "When my niece saw the body"?

3                   ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ [**MS. ROWENA COOTES**]:  
4 No, like, we went to see the body.

5                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, when you saw  
6 it? You saw the body?

7                   ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ [**MS. ROWENA COOTES**]:  
8 Yeah.

9                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, okay.

10                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah, and that ---

11                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, tell me about  
12 that.

13                  ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ [**MS. ROWENA COOTES**]:  
14 And we questioned the RCMP about why she had that. And  
15 then they said they didn't have any answers for that. It's  
16 -- to me, it was questionable because she had like, a  
17 bruise on her -- like, eh, you can tell when somebody has  
18 been beaten. That's what was being covered up from, like,  
19 after we were allowed to see the body.

20                                 She had bruises on her arm. Yeah. And she  
21 -- her body was swollen. Like, to me, like I said, that  
22 was (inaudible).

23                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

24                  ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ [**MS. ROWENA COOTES**]:  
25 And ---

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So Wayne, Cynthia  
2                   [Rowena] was just describing when they went and viewed the  
3                   body, and so basically some of the marks that (inaudible).

4                   ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**  
5                   Yeah, we were just telling her about how her (inaudible)  
6                   choked.

7                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** On her neck.

8                   ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** On  
9                   her side of her face because she either pushed on something  
10                  or that's (inaudible). You can tell when somebody's been  
11                  beaten and that, like what I saw.

12                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

13                  ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** So  
14                  -- and all of these were unanswered. I took my father down  
15                  to the police station every day, Monday, Wednesday, and  
16                  Friday. One of those days we'd take him down there. And  
17                  he would talk with somebody from victim services and I  
18                  believe her name was [T.]

19                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

20                  ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**  
21                  And she -- her and my dad, they're like -- I guess I have  
22                  to explain about my father. My father was the president of  
23                  Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council at one time.

24                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** He was what?

25                  ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** He

1 was the president of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council and  
2 he was very -- like, he would -- very politically ---

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Inaudible)?

4 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

5 Yeah.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

7 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

8 And he had a lot of influential people.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

10 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

11 But when it came to my sister Nadine it seemed like the  
12 doors shut.

13 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

14 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** I  
15 don't know, but there's -- he really questioned -- what was  
16 his name, Frank?

17 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

18 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

19 Frank. He came over and I wasn't too clear about why he  
20 had all of the family, like, our family, like, his -- my  
21 family, his sister's family, where we went into the Golden  
22 Dragon. He bought us dinner and that puzzled me. But he  
23 knew a lot of more information about my sister than anybody  
24 else was telling us.

25 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Oh, Fred.



1 ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

2 Fred, yeah.

3 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Yeah, his name is Fred,  
4 Fred Stevensnot, S-T-E-V-E-N-S-N-O-T. Yeah, he was a  
5 friend with my mom. And yeah, it seemed like he knew a lot  
6 more than us.

7 ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

8 Yeah.

9 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: And that's where we were  
10 mostly getting our information from, is Fred.

11 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did the police take  
12 a statement from you?

13 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: Huh?

14 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did the police take  
15 a statement from you?

16 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No. Because I -- last  
17 time I -- they just asked me where I was and I said I was  
18 at my brother's and then I went back home because at the  
19 time I was with somebody and I was living with her at the  
20 time. I was living on North Park so I wasn't living too  
21 far away from my mom.

22 And then I went back home. I went to  
23 Vancouver for a bit and I came back and Steven told me what  
24 happened. And the cops never asked for my information or  
25 anything. They just asked where I was.

1                   And they said, "When your mom passed away  
2 she was found in Esquimalt." And they asked me what was --  
3 when was the last time I seen my mom. And I told her --  
4 told them it was on the welfare day on -- in July. And  
5 that's all they asked me.

6                   ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: My  
7 dad was asking about the question of the involvement with  
8 her death, they would connect it with Cheyanne. That's  
9 what he was asking the cops. And they said they can't  
10 connect the two because -- I don't recall what he said  
11 about that, but that was a concern for my dad. But it  
12 seemed they were unwilling to connect the two. And he had  
13 the suspicion of the two being connected.

14                   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was Cheyanne known  
15 to the police, do you think?

16                   MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: No.

17                   ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:  
18 No.

19                   MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: He wasn't. I've known  
20 Cheyanne for about 15 years.

21                   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm. So your dad  
22 had that hypothesis. Do you have that hypothesis that they  
23 were connected?

24                   ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:  
25 No.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** How did Cheyanne  
2 die?

3                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** My brother got home from  
4 work. I wasn't living with them at the time. My mom and  
5 Cheyanne were living with Steven. Steven got home from  
6 work and Cheyanne was just in the living room and he was  
7 trying to revive him and wake him up. He was found -- he  
8 died in the kitchen.

9                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was an autopsy done  
10 on him?

11                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I wasn't aware because I  
12 wasn't the next of kin. So everything -- all the  
13 information about Cheyanne was given to the dad.

14                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

15                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And my mom felt lost and  
16 she -- because they weren't giving her any information  
17 about Cheyanne. Because they said well, they're going to  
18 give it all to his dad because his dad wanted him, to bring  
19 him home and Cheyanne didn't want to go home. He wanted to  
20 stay in Victoria because he was telling me, and my mom and  
21 Steve said he wanted to be buried in Victoria. Because to  
22 me, it seems like he knew his time was almost up when he  
23 was telling me this.

24                   ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**  
25 M'hm.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was he ill?

2                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** He seemed pretty healthy  
3 to me because ---

4                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I guess no one was  
5 telling because there's confidentiality issues because  
6 you're not the next of kin.

7                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

8                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But did they --  
9 anyone else try to revive him? Was he ---

10                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I was told ---

11                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Inaudible)?

12                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I was told the next day.

13                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I see.

14                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Because they were  
15 questioning Steven and Thomas because Steven and Thomas  
16 were living together. They had a two-bedroom. My mom and  
17 Cheyanne were sleeping in the living room so Steven and  
18 Thomas were -- because they were getting questioned by the  
19 cops, what's going on with Cheyanne?

20                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So what would you  
21 like to say to the Commissioners about this? What is it  
22 that's bugging you the most?

23                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I just want answers.

24                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Want answers.

25                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** It's been five years.

1 Five years, every day it's the same thing, nothing.

2 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Nothing. Me and my  
3 sister came up with a theory that she could have been  
4 working ---

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

6 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** --- for the police and  
7 then she could have been undercover as the boss, but I  
8 don't know. Maybe. Could have been. It's what one theory  
9 was.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. Did your mom  
11 have a job?

12 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Huh?

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did she work?

14 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, she was on  
15 disability.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** She was on  
17 disability.

18 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She was on disability  
19 too. Her and Cheyanne were both on disability.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

21 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** The only ones that were  
22 working in that house were my brothers.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What's -- who knows  
24 Nadine's birth date?

25 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I always celebrated it

1 two days, so -- but she was born on midnight on [D.O.B.]  
2 but I always celebrated her birthday on [D.O.B.]. But my  
3 grandpa says [D.O.B.].

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So we'll give her  
5 two birthdays.

6 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And the year?

8 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** '64.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So tell me where  
10 you think the police could have done better and where you  
11 think that the police actually helped in some way.

12 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** They could have figured  
13 out the fingerprints on her neck.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

15 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** That bruise on the side  
16 of her cheek ~~bum~~ [bone] was bothering me too.

17 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Anything else?

19 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, I'll get to the  
20 end. But yeah, they just could have done a better on the  
21 investigation. They didn't even seem like they cared at  
22 all.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What did you see  
24 about them that made you think they didn't care?

25 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Just his one-word

1           answers from every time I tried asking him questions. "I  
2           don't know. We'll keep in contact. We'll do the best we  
3           can." That's all I've been getting from them. And I was  
4           getting more angry so I gave the -- yeah, the next of kin  
5           to Steven because every time I tried talking to them they  
6           would just get me more angry.

7                           And Steven is more of a calm, down to earth,  
8           humble kind of brother so I just thought I might as well  
9           let him deal with it for now because I couldn't get  
10          anything out of them. So Steven took over as the next of  
11          kin.

12                           **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you think Steven  
13          knows things that you don't know?

14                           **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, he doesn't keep  
15          anything from me.

16                           **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So just know that  
17          this FILU -- I'm not sure how long it's going to be in  
18          existence. The funding came out as part of this -- in  
19          support of the Inquiry but it's -- they're government and  
20          we're not government, okay, so it's different.

21                           But one day when you're feeling calm --  
22          maybe you could take up meditation for a week or something  
23          -- and then you can go to FILU and see if they can help you  
24          get some of these documents.

25                           **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is there WiFi here?

2                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Inaudible) WiFi?

3                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Just so we could  
4 look it up, FILU.

5                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Don't know.

6                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Unlike the police,  
7 they're just sitting waiting for people like you to come in  
8 and ask for help. It would be interesting to look at the  
9 coroner's report. They're fairly easy to get access to.  
10 But if it's five years and if it's an RCMP -- RCMP say they  
11 don't ever close a file. So it's not closed.

12                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But we were told that --  
13 -

14                   ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**  
15 Yeah.

16                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** My grandfather told us  
17 too that the case is closed.

18                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah. Closed, yeah.

19                   ~~**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**~~ **[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:**  
20 What was the acronym?

21                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I'm sorry?

22                   ~~**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**~~ **[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:**  
23 What's the acronym?

24                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's Family  
25 Information Liaison Unit. It's part of victim services.



1 It's -- most of the ---

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The subject  
3 (inaudible).

4 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It's -- the funding  
5 has usually gone to victim services for kind of an  
6 (inaudible).

7 I know that we don't interface. Sadly, for  
8 others, you know, many, many people have -- I guess the  
9 thing is that the families -- although this is -- I'm not  
10 saying that this is right or wrong. But families just  
11 learn that they just have to keep phoning and keep -- have  
12 to be treated like that.

13 And the only thing is, I guess, that there's  
14 kind of a funny movie actually with Shirley MacLaine and  
15 her son is in jail. And she gets treated harshly every  
16 time so she decides to bring them cookies. So (inaudible)  
17 [by the end] in the movie that they're treating her --  
18 like, they're opening doors for her and things.

19 So I think that if you are going to -- you  
20 know, there's just a higher likelihood that you're going to  
21 get some information if you keep in contact with them and  
22 you try to figure out a way to endear yourself to them  
23 which probably, for you, feels like holding your nose and  
24 taking something but ---

25 ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]: I

1 think my father had it right, you know. He'd go down there  
2 and my brother said to him, "Why do you keep going down?  
3 They're just going to tell you nothing."

4 And he'd say, "You have to have patience."  
5 He'd tell that to his brother. And -- but my dad was, you  
6 know, he was persistent. You know, he didn't let anybody -  
7 --

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Dissuade.

9 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** --  
10 - take him down and just go down there and just make your  
11 presence known. He said, "Just make your presence known."  
12 He said, "They know when they see me coming." And some of  
13 the officers will turn the other way because they know my  
14 father.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

16 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

17 Just that ---

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's kind of like  
19 if it's this job to do and this job to do and this job to  
20 do.

21 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

22 Yeah.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** If your father's  
24 file was this, this is the one they'd go to ---

25 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**

1 Okay.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- because he's  
3 been down there every day and he's persistent.

4 ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**  
5 (Inaudible) to me.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I just think it  
7 works that way.

8 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah, if it happened  
9 to my son too I probably would be down there too ---

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

11 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** --- all the time  
12 bugging them. "What's going on? What's going on?" That's  
13 how he was. It was his daughter. It's like, no answers.  
14 Pretty sad ---

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

16 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** --- in how people are  
17 supposed to be moving forward with that. It's not  
18 happening.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, hopefully  
20 these recommendations will go somewhere.

21 ~~**MS. ROWENA COOTES**~~ **[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** I  
22 found some information on ---

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, thank you.

24 ~~**MS. ROWENA COOTES**~~ **[MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:** -  
25 -- to help. And they can research available information

1 and connect with relevant agencies such as the police,  
2 coroner and others. They can determine if you can access  
3 information and if not, who in your family can. And you  
4 can request official information; arrange meetings between  
5 families and agencies for information sharing; support and  
6 accompany families during meetings with agencies; assist  
7 with explanations when no records or information are  
8 available; provide information, assistance, advocacy, and  
9 accompaniment for families to access services and  
10 resources.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is there a phone  
12 number?

13 **MS. ~~ROWENA COOTES~~ [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:**  
14 There's a lot more information in there.

15 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Well, would that kind  
16 of information would be given out in the (inaudible)?

17 **MS. ~~ROWENA COOTES~~ [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:**  
18 No, see, I just Googled it and I pulled up that  
19 information. And I certainly can print out this  
20 information as well.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Great idea.

22 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** That would be great.

23 **MS. ~~ROWENA COOTES~~ [MS. MAUREEN KNIGHTON]:**  
24 Yeah.

25 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** That would be helpful.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So was there  
2 anything going in your mom's life that made her more  
3 vulnerable to this?

4                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I think the loss of  
5 Cheyanne.

6                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The loss of  
7 Cheyanne, okay.

8                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** That's -- they had been  
9 together for 15, almost 20 years.

10                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, wow.

11                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And she passed away not  
12 about three months after -- or Cheyanne passed away three  
13 months before my mom.

14                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

15                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Three to four months.

16                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Passed in April, I  
17 think?

18                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Huh?

19                   **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ROWENA COOTES]:** Was it  
20 in April?

21                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She was going through a  
22 tough time there so she stayed. She moved in with Steven  
23 and Thomas.

24                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

25                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She wanted to move in

1 with me but I had three or four kids of my own in the  
2 house, so I had a houseful already.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. You can't  
4 always do that.

5 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Steven and Thomas were  
6 living down the road from me so they just lived up about  
7 two blocks away from me.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

9 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** So my mom was always in  
10 contact with her boys. So there was times when she said  
11 she felt lost and I said, "Well, you know where I am. You  
12 know, you can always come up, come and see me." And she  
13 did.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

15 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** There were times when we  
16 just sat in my backyard and just talked. She always felt  
17 better after that.

18 And then I heard she was moving somewhere.  
19 She had a place because she didn't want to stay at this  
20 homeless shelter called "Our Place" in Victoria.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

22 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She didn't want to be  
23 there any more because she said it felt like jail because  
24 there was -- nobody was allowed in her room, nobody's  
25 allowed to go upstairs and visit. It was exactly like jail

1 at Our Place. Same rules and everything.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** All right.

3 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** So she was quite  
4 depressed after staying over there so that's the reason why  
5 she moved in with Steven.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so she had  
7 depression too happening?

8 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Well, for a bit until  
9 she moved in with Steven and Thomas.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, okay.

11 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She felt better living  
12 with her boys because when she was living at Our Place for  
13 about a month she felt depressed and alone and lost. And I  
14 told her, I said, "Well, just move in with Thomas and with  
15 Steven. They got a big living room. They got a big  
16 apartment." So they did. Because they had a pretty big  
17 two-bedroom apartment so ---

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Hope they had a  
19 good couch from the daytime.

20 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Well, it was a -- yeah,  
21 it was a big couch and hide-a-bed and everything.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh. Anything else  
23 that you think contributed to her vulnerability?

24 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, how large a

1 woman was she? Like, what did she look like? Like this  
2 skinny person here?

3 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** She was really skinny,  
4 eh?

5 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. She was like,  
6 5'2, 105, something like that.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, wow.

8 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** She was small.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Not an extreme  
10 fighter, obviously.

11 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Oh, she was a fighter.

12 **~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:**  
13 That's my sister there. She broke it (inaudible).

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, sorry. I just  
15 think she (inaudible) later in the family?

16 **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** Yeah. She broke her arm  
17 and she got sassy with her and ---

18 **~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
19 Sassy? She's just mean.

20 **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** Just being her typical  
21 beautiful self and she hit me with her cast.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And she -- and  
23 sorry, you said she was on a disability too?

24 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, she was on  
25 disability too.



1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so that meant  
2 that she probably didn't have a lot of money?

3                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, she only got a  
4 paycheque once a month.

5                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. What was the  
6 disability about?

7                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I'm not quite too sure.

8                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was it -- do you  
9 think it was an accident or was it something ---

10                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Well, she broke her  
11 ankle and she wasn't able to work.

12                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I see.

13                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But she ended up with  
14 two plates in her ankles.

15                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, wow. Did she  
16 have trouble walking?

17                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

18                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh my goodness.

19                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I was her chauffeur for  
20 about three years, driving her around, dropping her off at  
21 bingo sometimes, picking up her bingo cards and dabbers,  
22 her extra cards.

23                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah. Thank you.

24                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. Well, as long as  
25 I got the car after.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, we also have  
2 to have these relationships.

3                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

4                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah.

5                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But yeah, I was just her  
6 chauffeur for the longest time when she broke her ankle and  
7 that's how she ended up on disability. She wasn't able to  
8 work any more.

9                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Right.

10                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, so there was  
11 a lot happening to make her vulnerable except for the fact  
12 she had you who had her back.

13                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

14                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I'm sure she really  
15 loved and appreciated it. Was she connecting to her  
16 community and her home?

17                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** We were hardly ever too  
18 connected to our home. We were mostly -- most of our lives  
19 were spent in Victoria. The only time we ever did go back  
20 home to Ahousaht is for a potlach or a funeral. Other than  
21 that, we never went back. And that's how we were here for  
22 Port Alberni too. We hardly had come back.

23                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

24                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** We had some family  
25 members living in Victoria but we stayed the longest. Out

1 of all my family, we stayed the longest.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did you?

3 **MR. MATTHEW TITIAN:** We've been there the  
4 longest. You guys (inaudible).

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so Matthew,  
6 what's your relationship with Nadine?

7 **MR. MATTHEW TITIAN:** She's my auntie. And  
8 Cynthia is my mother.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. Okay, now it  
10 all makes sense. I just feel like a jigsaw puzzle got its  
11 final piece. Yeah, it's bad enough when someone passes. I  
12 had a friend of mine that died and I went to his funeral on  
13 the weekend. So I was kind of mad at cancer.

14 But when you think of another living being  
15 actually taking someone's life, it's a terrible waste. And  
16 you don't have any idea who that might be, would you?  
17 There's the guy in the wheelchair.

18 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, (inaudible).

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** He disappeared.

20 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, I haven't seen him  
21 for about three, four years. He had ---

22 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Really?

23 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** The one that we met  
25 him the day we went over?

1                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, when all of us, we  
2                   were there.

3                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah.

4                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** The one with no legs ---

5                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah.

6                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- in a wheelchair.

7                   Yeah, I haven't seen him for about three, four years.

8                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Wow.

9                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Raven hasn't seen him  
10                  because she's been staying at our place too.

11                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

12                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Her and Bob.

13                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** But that's when your  
14                  mom was hanging around with Ray?

15                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, that's the one Raven  
16                  was with.

17                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Oh, yeah.

18                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** With -- there's Fred.

19                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Oh, that's right.

20                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Fred's was the guy  
21                  in the wheelchair?

22                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No, Fred was just a  
23                  friend of the family with my mom. He was good friends with  
24                  her ---

25                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh.

1                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- while they were both  
2 living here in Port Alberni, I guess.

3                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Is that the one who  
4 knew her well?

5                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Huh?

6                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** (Inaudible) the other  
7 one, Fred Stevensnot.

8                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Stevensnot there, I  
9 guess, yeah. He was just a good friend with my mom.

10                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

11                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I guess they were  
12 friends while they were both living here in Port Alberni.  
13 I barely remember him.

14                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

15                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But I haven't really  
16 talked to him since my grandfather passed away. That was  
17 the last time I seen him.

18                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. Now, is that  
19 your dad that passed away?

20                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah.

21                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Sounds like a  
22 special guy.

23                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

24                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Just in your belief  
25 system, where do you think people go when they die?

1                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I think -- me  
2 personally, I don't believe in God or the devil. It's the  
3 way I was just wired, I guess, throughout my life. I tried  
4 to even go to church and believe that there is a God and  
5 Creator but I don't think there is.

6                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But what if she  
7 just -- you know, they had -- be just basically  
8 transformed?

9                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Reincarnation?

10                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No, just  
11 transformed.

12                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. I'm a very  
13 scientific guy. So if I don't see it I don't believe in  
14 it.

15                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

16                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** That's just how I am.  
17 That's the way I've always been thinking my whole life.  
18 And Mom tried to rewire me on God and the Creator and  
19 everything and ---

20                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Really?

21                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- it's just not me.

22                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, people have  
23 got so many different ideas.

24                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

25                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** How about your

1 culture?

2 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I believe in my culture.

3 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

4 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** My mom made sure -- my  
5 mom, my grandfather, and they always made sure to believe  
6 in my culture.

7 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** I see.

8 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. But I think it  
9 was living, living in the city too long. I don't have time  
10 to do my culture thing because I work. I mean, I line  
11 cook, so I work throughout the nights.

12 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

13 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I work late hours so I  
14 never had time to go to a culture night in Victoria where -  
15 - I think it's at the Fernwood Centre in Victoria.

16 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

17 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And I don't -- I can't  
18 go there. I'm always at work.

19 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

20 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And there was times when  
21 I want to go to the travel journeys but I can't because  
22 travel journeys don't pay for my rent.

23 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

24 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I want to go to powwows  
25 but I can't because of my work.

1                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

2                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Just a lot of things I  
3 missed out in life because of I'm more dedicated to my  
4 work. But when I -- as I was growing up my mom made sure  
5 that we went to every powwow she was in, all our culture,  
6 and I still believe in our cultures.

7                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

8                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But I just lost touch.

9                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Just had time for  
10 (inaudible) too.

11                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Because ---

12                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Huh?

13                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** He said (inaudible).

14                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I (inaudible).

15                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** (Inaudible) too.

16                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** (Inaudible) me  
17 (inaudible).

18                   ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
19 (Inaudible) his culture.

20                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** (Inaudible) I like my  
21 (inaudible).

22                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I think Gertrude  
23 asked.

24                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** (Inaudible) up.

25                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. So this is



1 moose hide, right? That's that ---

2 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:

3 It's about violence, isn't it?

4 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MR. WAYNE KEITLAH]:

5 Yeah.

6 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, it's the men.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, (inaudible)

8 style.

9 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I think it was a  
10 man and his daughter who started it. I'm not sure where.

11 MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: That guy was talking  
12 about they started with moose hide?

13 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

14 ~~MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:

15 It was really started right here.

16 MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: It was one -- yeah.

17 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, I see.

18 MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: Yeah.

19 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, so this is  
20 the moose hide?

21 MR. WAYNE KEITLAH: This is mine.

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: This is yours?

23 MR. MATTHEW TITIAN: No, that's his. I'm  
24 wearing one.

25 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Now, did Wayne give

1           that to you?

2                           **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** No.

3                           **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No?

4                           **MR. MATTHEW TITIAN:** No, they were handed  
5           out in the tent.

6                           **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, were they? Oh,  
7           okay. I -- my daughter knows about it and so she gave me a  
8           pile of them to give out and that's why I know about it.

9                           ~~**MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH**~~ **[ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:**  
10          It's a good program.

11                          ~~**MR. MATTHEW TITIAN**~~ **[ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:**  
12          You know, and (inaudible).

13                          **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** I heard from my mom's  
14          spiritual teacher, you know, if you live in the city and  
15          you think you don't have your culture ---

16                          **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

17                          **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** --- then you have  
18          parks around you and you have trees. They saw you walk in  
19          that forest where the trees grow wherever you are, and  
20          that's like going into a church ---

21                          **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** All right.

22                          **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** --- because you have  
23          all of your healing in there and then you have all the  
24          different medicinal medicines and like, the cedar trees.  
25          When you walk by the trees, the trees just brush you and

1 help to heal. And whatever you're carrying inside it helps  
2 you feel better.

3 So you don't really have to go church or you  
4 don't have to, you know, go to a powwow or go to the  
5 culture centre. You can walk through the park and your  
6 soul is there.

7 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** For me, I like to go to  
8 the ocean.

9 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, water  
10 is healing.

11 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Because my mom, she  
12 loved the water and ---

13 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

14 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- that's where I think  
15 we always just sat and talked.

16 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

17 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And I live maybe 10  
18 minutes away from Macaulay Point and I just go to Macaulay  
19 Point beach and just sit there because it's open water. I  
20 can see right to Port Angeles. I can see that way and it's  
21 just like 18 kilometres of open water.

22 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

23 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And I just sit there and  
24 relax ---

25 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm. Yeah.

1                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- because that's my  
2 way of (inaudible).

3                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** That's great. You  
4 already -- you got your teachings from your mom and you  
5 carry them. Great. And they always say water is so  
6 powerful.

7                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

8                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

9                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, I go there maybe  
10 once a week to go to Macaulay Point.

11                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

12                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** So.

13                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Yeah. And this will  
14 help you heal more.

15                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, it does. It takes  
16 a lot of stress and anger away from me because I have a lot  
17 of built-up anger and ---

18                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

19                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- every year around  
20 August, every year around August, I drink a lot. And I'm  
21 not going to lie about that. And I said, "Yeah, I've just  
22 been heavily drinking," and it helps me forget the pain  
23 that I go through on a daily basis in August and how I felt  
24 in 2012.

25                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

1                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I try to talk to my  
2 brother but my brother is hardly ever around. Neither is  
3 my other brother. My sister, she's like -- she lives a  
4 fast life so I can't keep up with her. So it's just me and  
5 myself and a couple of friends of mine. But my friends are  
6 there to help me out. But also they're there to help me,  
7 yeah.

8                   I just know there's more to life than  
9 alcohol.

10                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm. And that's good  
11 you know that.

12                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Huh?

13                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** That's good you know  
14 that.

15                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And that's all I've been  
16 running to, is alcohol lately. I don't -- yeah, just I  
17 sober up and then the pain is still there and I just feel  
18 just twice as shitty.

19                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Yeah. This alcohol  
20 just covers it up and then you sober up and it's still  
21 there.

22                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

23                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Yeah. But going to  
24 the water, it's a good thing.

25                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, it sounds  
2                   like it.

3                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

4                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Going to the water  
5                   might be the answer.

6                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** The thing is, for me, I  
7                   go to Macaulay Point and I have to walk past the liquor  
8                   store so I always go to the liquor store when I go up to  
9                   Macaulay too.

10                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

11                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Like, in Esquimalt,  
12                  there's nothing but liquor stores.

13                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

14                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Seems like it's like,  
15                  every kilometre there's a liquor store in Esquimalt.  
16                  There's one there right on McConnor (phonetic) Way.  
17                  There's one behind my house and then there's nothing on  
18                  McConnor Way. There's like, four along Esquimalt Road.

19                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

20                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And Oak Bay is not like  
21                  that anywhere so I don't know. I'm not looking for an  
22                  excuse. I have responsibilities for my own decisions.  
23                  Every man is responsible for their own actions. It's just  
24                  an easy way for me to deal with my pain.

25                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** I think, you know, you

1 going down to the water and sitting there and feeling the  
2 healing from the water ---

3 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

4 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** --- it's going to come  
5 to the point where you don't want or need your alcohol to  
6 help you with the pain that you're carrying because, you  
7 know, you're slowly working that anger and that pain that  
8 you have about your mom and losing her.

9 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

10 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** And she's going to  
11 help you, you know. She's with you every step of the way  
12 as you walk towards that water and she sits with you.

13 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

14 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** She's going to help  
15 you heal and you know ---

16 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** It's hard.

17 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** --- stop drinking  
18 because that's what she wants for you.

19 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, that's what I need  
20 to do with my life.

21 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

22 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** It's just, I'm just on a  
23 downward spiral and it seems like I'm too far down already  
24 in alcohol already. Like, I need a six pack a day just to  
25 get me by, to get rid of the edge.

1                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

2                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** This is my first time  
3 not drinking in two days.

4                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Good for you.

5                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** I was usually drinking  
6 every day so ---

7                   **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

8                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** --- it's my first time  
9 in a long time since I haven't had a drink this long.

10                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm.

11                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And I'm not really  
12 craving it when I'm here for some reason. Just maybe it's  
13 I'm with family and it helps me. Because, like I said, I  
14 have no family in Victoria. I have friends but not my  
15 family.

16                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Yeah.

17                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** So and I -- since I've  
18 been here I haven't been craving it.

19                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** It's a start for you.

20                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

21                  **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** It's in you now, where  
22 you can get that support now from your family. They're  
23 helping you.

24                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

25                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's kind of a



1 formula, actually. The formula is that you get to know  
2 yourself well enough when an alarm goes off which is like,  
3 "I need a six pack."

4 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And then you've  
6 found peace enough at the water that you've got three or  
7 four seconds to make a decision. And your decision is?  
8 And then the next part is you've got a bridge to take you  
9 into a self that doesn't want to drink alcohol.

10 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So you got your  
12 alarm, you got the bridge, and then the calm on the water;  
13 actually what that does is it gives you that three or four  
14 seconds so you can actually make a decision rather than  
15 just acting like the crazy rabbit that's running across the  
16 road ---

17 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- like a wild  
19 monkey ---

20 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- or a wild  
22 buffalo. And day by day, you could do that. Even if you  
23 spent then one minute every day you would move towards it -  
24 --

25 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- by self-  
2                   regulating your mind when you're down by the water.

3                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

4                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that's what  
5                   millions of people do around the world to help them with  
6                   their suffering. And the more you do it the more you learn  
7                   about who you are. And you can sit still ---

8                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

9                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- and you can  
10                  feel good about being with yourself.

11                  And the anger, you feel anger, but you know  
12                  what? You become anger.

13                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah, I've noticed that.  
14                  And now it's ---

15                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You've got it. And  
16                  you know, think about it in terms of wow, I'm so grateful  
17                  that I had this mom and she taught me so much. And I'm  
18                  going to use it to be the son that she wants me to be.

19                  **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ROWENA COOTES]:** You  
20                  were asking a question about the Inquiry.

21                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

22                  **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ROWENA COOTES]:** And I  
23                  have a question about it. It crossed my mind a few times  
24                  and I didn't know. The way I was looking at it is my  
25                  sister was Indigenous; my sister was addicted.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** She was?

2                   **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ROWENA COOTES]:**

3                   Starting when she was just like when he described himself  
4                   about having to have a drink. That's how she was. And to  
5                   me, it kind of -- the way I was thinking, the way the RCMP  
6                   handled it is that because of who she -- what she did and  
7                   how she lived is at the circumstances of why this wasn't  
8                   really investigated or there were a lot of questions that I  
9                   had about -- because when my dad -- my dad was asking about  
10                  that, they would shrug him off about -- no, that's not, you  
11                  know, the case.

12                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah, so that's an  
13                  example of ---

14                  **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ROWENA COOTES]:** Yeah.

15                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- systemic  
16                  violence.

17                  **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

18                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's when a bias is  
19                  shown and decisions are made based on stereotype and bias.

20                  **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ROWENA COOTES]:** Yeah.

21                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

22                  **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KEITLAH~~ [ROWENA COOTES]:**

23                  Because that is my question.

24                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I think the one  
25                  thing that's really important is for us to appreciate that

1           it's really difficult to stop people from killing other  
2           people.

3                           And so we have to do it by making sure  
4           there's not systemic violence in our system, that we have  
5           to rely on the protectors. We have to rely on observing  
6           that they're a risk and doing something about it.

7                           And because -- you know, like, Canada is one  
8           country but many countries don't have a really good track  
9           record when it comes down to stopping serial killers, for  
10          example.

11                           **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KIETLAH~~** [ROWENA COOTES]: Yeah.

12                           **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So that's, I think,  
13          really why the Terms of Reference are framed the way they  
14          are. It's not like, you know, identify the people who are  
15          doing the killing and stop them. It's more about what is  
16          contributing to the vulnerability of Aboriginal women? And  
17          yes, it's clear, one thing that is contributing to the  
18          vulnerability of Indigenous women is the fact that -- you  
19          know, that four minutes or four seconds I talked about?

20                           **MS. ~~CYNTHIA KIETLAH~~** [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

21          Yeah.

22                           **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That four seconds  
23          isn't there. And it's just thinking okay, she's a drunk or  
24          she's a -- you know, drawing conclusions and acting on  
25          those. And it creates a bit of a chain because what

1 happens is that if an officer, or a group of officers, a  
2 system, you know, a detachment of officers, they don't act  
3 hastily and with compassion and love when any human being  
4 is found dead.

5 And they don't go to the effort, which is  
6 their job, to treat that body with respect and then to  
7 treat the family members with respect. And even if they  
8 can't give information at least explain why they can't give  
9 information. "I can give you this but I can't give you  
10 that. But I will be able to give you that later when I  
11 know this."

12 And so what happens is that not only does it  
13 contribute to the crimes not being solved so that people  
14 aren't held accountable, but it also contributes to other  
15 members of society thinking that that human being is of  
16 less value, right? We know that. We see that.

17 And I think that's why it's so magnificent  
18 when we come to a setting like this where effort is being  
19 put into ceremony and just like -- I can't remember the  
20 name of the fellow who spoke first and he has welcomed  
21 everybody there. And he said that, you know, "We're worth  
22 it, guys, but we have got to change this."

23 And I work for the Inquiry and I trust that  
24 it's going to get better. I believe that even if it's --  
25 even when you've had a day where things just seem so gray

1 and then the light comes in, and I see it in people's faces  
2 just from these -- as members of the Inquiry.

3 We sit down and talk to people and they walk  
4 out with kind of a sense of you know what? Like, I'm here  
5 on earth for a purpose and I'm going to do my best to  
6 fulfill it. And I'm not going to consume the words of  
7 people who are too afraid of themselves and feel so badly  
8 about themselves that they have to bully me.

9 The worst thing I can do is adopt the words  
10 of some person who doesn't have the capacity to feel  
11 compassion for other people around them.

12 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Have you lost someone  
13 before?

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I'm sorry?

15 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Have you lost someone?

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Have I lost  
17 somebody? I've never lost -- like, my mother did disappear  
18 for five years but the only people I've lost are my dad  
19 with cancer and this in the sixties. And but never, never,  
20 has anyone -- have I been in the situation that you're in.

21 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** My sister is still  
23 alive.

24 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Do you think if we  
25 hired people that were in our position they would help

1 more?

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do I think what?

3 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Do you think people  
4 that have lost somebody would help more with our cases?

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so where do  
6 we get compassion from? I guess that's what -- that's the  
7 question I lead to.

8 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Exactly. Ask her.  
9 She knows who. I don't know where you get it from. I  
10 asked them to help me before and then ---

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, there is  
12 science on it.

13 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** I know. I don't know  
14 where to go.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so you know,  
16 I don't -- this isn't about me at all but ---

17 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Well, it's about --  
18 could be about you, it could be about the whole you with  
19 the situation about having compassion for a person like us  
20 that we haven't been in a position before but we still want  
21 help. Maybe that's what's getting him angry.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So I was a  
23 prosecutor for 33 years.

24 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I -- when I

1       said the business about you don't feel anger; you are  
2       anger, that -- I got to a position like that. And the way  
3       that I got out of it, I think that you have to do a number  
4       of things. Like, there's the water, there's the  
5       identifying people who are actually helping you.

6                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Well, I do have a friend  
7       that's been in the same situation as me. And it's probably  
8       the reason why we're good friends because she lost her dad  
9       too. And she's in the same situation as me. So that's  
10      where I get my compassion, I guess, because she was in the  
11      same situation as me.

12                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

13                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** And we both lost our  
14      parents the same way because she lost her dad too and I  
15      lost my mom the same way she lost her dad. Because me and  
16      her, we were -- we weren't friends at first. We were  
17      dating and then started to get to know each other and  
18      started talking about each other's parents and then we  
19      realized we have a lot of things in common.

20                   That's where I get it. She knows how to  
21      calm me down. She's the only one that -- in Victoria that  
22      can calm me down. She is really good that way.

23                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's interesting.  
24      You should observe what she does and see if you could do it  
25      yourself.



1                   **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

2                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But anyway, so I  
3 started meditating. So I meditate 40 minutes a day and I  
4 also do yoga. And that the science is that by -- and I  
5 believe that the Indigenous ceremonies do the same thing --  
6 -

7                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

8                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- which is that  
9 they -- it stimulates -- there's certain exercises that  
10 yoga and meditation that stimulate parts of the brain that  
11 it actually opens a person up to be more compassionate. So  
12 they -- not -- it doesn't mean that everyone chooses to be  
13 more compassionate but it changes the brain to be more  
14 compassionate.

15                   And that's yoga and there's other -- I'm  
16 sure if I researched this -- because I haven't yet -- but I  
17 am, for the purpose of the Inquiry, that it's like yoga.  
18 People did it for centuries and then the scientists came  
19 along and they said, "Hey geeze, it works," you know, like,  
20 "because this is what's going on in the brain."

21                   So I believe that they get that with some of  
22 the Indigenous ceremonies that have been practised for --  
23 since the beginning.

24                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** It does tell them too.  
25 It does that.

1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

2                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** It's -- I've talked to  
3                   -- God knows, you know, but telling that I have to be  
4                   patient enough for the answer, and patient enough to go and  
5                   talk to people, trying to get answers, you know, and being  
6                   very -- just doing it on time every day, every week, every  
7                   month, every year. And you just -- you keep going on like,  
8                   you with your yoga and whatever. It's kind of like okay,  
9                   well, maybe today is the day. Today is going to be the day  
10                  that I find out what happened. And that's kind of a hope.  
11                  It's kind of like your ocean.

12                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

13                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Is that what you're  
14                  trying to say?

15                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** No, I don't think  
16                  you would like what I'm trying to say, and it's not like  
17                  this is to say it. But it's got more to do with just  
18                  understanding than like, sometimes we just don't get the  
19                  answers.

20                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

21                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And finding peace  
22                  in that.

23                  **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Just so that even  
24                  that's better than nothing.

25                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

1                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** It's better than  
2 nothing if they just can admit it, you know?

3                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

4                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** But yeah, we're doing  
5 our best and there's still nothing. There's nothing I can  
6 tell you. It's got to be -- it was more accepting  
7 (~~inaudible~~) [than what you just said,] better than nothing.  
8 Nothing is nothing, but when you say, "There is nothing,"  
9 that's kind of like ---

10                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** There is a  
11 curiosity. Like, and you're having a wonderful  
12 conversation, I think. I do appreciate it. But imagine if  
13 you talked to the police like that. Like, I mean, could  
14 you ---

15                   **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** No, there would be  
16 nothing. Like he said, there's nothing.

17                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. But at least  
18 if you just -- for example, I have heard that there is a  
19 new program now where they're teaching the police and  
20 paramedics, and everybody, in what they call psychological  
21 first aid because they're finding that even though a  
22 firefighter rescues somebody from the third floor of a  
23 building that if they are too rough for them and they  
24 ignored their cat or they're disrespectful or called  
25 somebody fat or something, it doesn't matter that they

1 saved their life. He was a jerk and that's their memory.

2 So they're teaching those people to  
3 understand the human factor. And the human factor is,  
4 like, if you're rescuing someone from a fire, if you're  
5 rescuing them you might as well remind them of how nice  
6 life can be and say, "Is there anything I can do? Can I  
7 call somebody?" or you know, say something kind ---

8 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- because that's  
10 what people need. And so they teach -- the same with,  
11 "What did he look like?" you know when you are just been  
12 robbed and they want to chase after the robber and you go,  
13 "Wait a minute, I've lost my phone," you know.

14 And so it would be nice if they'd say,  
15 "Well, do you want to -- you can use mine. Do you want to  
16 call somebody to help you out?" You know what I mean?  
17 Like -- so that's what they're actually training people to  
18 do.

19 So what if when you go in and you speak to  
20 somebody like that, when you engage in a conversation with  
21 them, would they start to understand who you are and they  
22 see you for who you are, kind of like what you're doing  
23 with me here.

24 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's what they

1 need to be trained to do, is talk to people, not be afraid  
2 of them.

3 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Not be, you know,  
5 backing away, going into the next room because ---

6 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Scared to.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- the same person  
8 that has been coming once a week for the last five years is  
9 here again.

10 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Or you're the person  
11 that likes to drink a lot. That's all I see. And I can't  
12 give you more information than that.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

14 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Interesting.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Like, you know  
16 what? We actually gave you some hope, didn't we, I think?  
17 You could try it.

18 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** M'hm.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you know what?  
20 If it doesn't work you can phone me up and tell me to fuck  
21 off. Like, I'm just trying my best and I'll try something  
22 else.

23 **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** You hear us and then  
25 we hear you saying, yeah, we did it; we did what you said

1 and now the rest is up to you. Keep calling and hopefully  
2 there's something we can -- better.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Well, I only have a  
4 situation where my mother disappeared for five years. I  
5 went to the police and you know, like, the dental records  
6 and she didn't have any because she doesn't have teeth.  
7 You know, it's like, so I've gone through this stuff and  
8 thankfully she showed up again.

9 So it's been -- it's interesting when  
10 somebody disappears for five years because you don't know  
11 if they're alive or dead or what.

12 There's a lot of people who have missing  
13 family members and they have no idea where they are.

14 So I don't know and it's not for me to tell  
15 people because we're all so different too in how we deal  
16 with the situations.

17 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yes, but isn't that is  
18 what this is about though?

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The Inquiry?

20 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Yeah.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

22 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Thank you.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** If I were -- you  
24 know, I've been a lawyer for a long time, right, so I'm  
25 used to giving people advice. I've given many, many people

1 advice over the years. But in this job it's not my job to  
2 give you advice. It's my job to listen to you and to -- I  
3 mean, except for the fact then there's a few things I know  
4 and so I pass on a name.

5 If I were in a different capacity, like, if  
6 I worked a FILU I would help you. I would go looking for  
7 things and -- but what my job is is to hear you or  
8 encourage you to provide information that can go to the  
9 Commissioners. And it's more like -- it's this.

10 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** Hope.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's hope. It is.  
12 It's like if you think about your relationship with time  
13 and you think about what was going on, like, 3,000 years  
14 ago and then you start to think about well, what's going to  
15 go on 3,000 years from now? I mean, what can I do today to  
16 make it go a certain way? That's what I'm working with  
17 now.

18 We're working with a way of actually  
19 figuring out what human beings are about in Canada that  
20 they want to actually kill the number of Indigenous women  
21 that they do. But it's not only Indigenous women, it's  
22 Indigenous men that are the marginalized folks. You know,  
23 domestic violence is a terrible problem all over the world.

24 **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Many countries,

1           they call it "femicide"; it's not only in Canada where  
2           women are being killed.

3                        So it's such a complex problem that it's  
4           not going to be solved with one report or it's going to  
5           take generations. And -- but we need to make some wise  
6           decisions about where to start.

7                        **MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH:** M'hm.

8                        **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I think we all  
9           kind of know where to start but it's like, we all know we  
10          don't want to speed but we speed. We all know we don't  
11          want to smoke cigarettes but we smoke cigarettes. We all  
12          know that we don't want to be mean to our mothers. You  
13          know, we're mean to our mothers. Like, so it's got  
14          something to do with being in a relationship with yourself  
15          where you actually bring out the authentic person even  
16          though it hurts. It's scary. It feels like things will be  
17          taken away from you.

18                       It's like listening. Most people can't  
19          listen because they're surrendering themselves and they  
20          feel threatened that they'll lose. That's what the police  
21          are doing.

22                       **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

23                       **MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
24          This is going way back but we got to stay here where we are  
25          right now because that's what it's dealing with. Complex.



1                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

2                   **MS. ROWENA COOTES [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**

3                   Back then, right now here today what have we learned if  
4                   you're to get through this part? All complex.

5                   **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Wayne's got a great  
6                   idea about water.

7                   **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** There's a really complex  
8                   state at -- that I remembering seeing about a public  
9                   situation. It's (inaudible) [we're dealing] with society  
10                  that has -- I didn't know for a long time you feel that  
11                  racism has been a part of ~~(inaudible)~~ [residential school].  
12                  So going through the residential school, all these things  
13                  that are being passed down from residential school are  
14                  learned from your parents and passed down to my children.  
15                  And it's that impact of this whole Inquiry. It's the  
16                  division of families and siblings, my siblings. It's that  
17                  relationship that that's -- it's not there. There's a loss  
18                  of connection.

19                  **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

20                  **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** And for me my father was  
21                  the connection he was able to get people together. He was  
22                  able to be spiritual, cultural, aspect of the whole family  
23                  and that was a big loss when we lost our father.

24                  And because there's none of that being a  
25                  part of the missing piece, the missing piece of being what

1 -- our cultural pieces and how we ~~(inaudible)~~ [were raised]  
2 because that was part of who my father was. It's part of  
3 (inaudible) [his mother], of how he was raised by  
4 (inaudible). And that's -- because I can see -- really see  
5 a division in a lot of family. Well, you can feel it when  
6 like, I walk into that room and just like, wow. And like,  
7 just ---

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And do you  
9 think that if your dad could have lived for 200 years that  
10 he always would have been able to have that influence or do  
11 you think things are changing fundamentally there are so  
12 many challenges that we have to maintain those  
13 relationships?

14 **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** To me, I think there's a  
15 lot of challenges that are being put on the family ---

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

17 **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** --- because of how I was  
18 raised and because of how I see things. And our cultural  
19 differences are so vast and really so -- like, we have  
20 little ones on the dance floor and you know, sitting there  
21 talking to my auntie and she says, "Yeah, there's a lot of  
22 little ones who are not supposed to be on the dance floor  
23 (inaudible) many many years ago."

24 But what she was talking about is it's  
25 because we've all run from that time because it's nice to

1 say we're always dancing. But then again, you're sitting  
2 there looking at what my parents grew up with. Because as  
3 children we weren't allowed to go to watch the practices or  
4 to be a part at that time. There's been a lot of changes.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

6 **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** And that I recall not to  
7 be discussed, not to be talked about. And a lot of that is  
8 (inaudible) a part of me so ~~it~~ (inaudible) [it's a missing  
9 factor of] why it's done this way. So yeah. I think he'd  
10 find a way.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I'm sorry?

12 **MS. ~~ROWENA COOTES~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:** I  
13 think he'd find a way. He always did.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

15 **MS. ~~ROWENA COOTES~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
16 He'd always find a way to get the people together, get it  
17 going, and seeing it through. He was that kind of guy but  
18 like you said, there is challenges along the way.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So you guys have  
20 got 50 percent of his DNA, you know?

21 **MS. ROWENA COOTES:** M'hm.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you've just got  
23 to wire (inaudible) focus and it's a choice, eh? I mean, I  
24 can tell. I'm influenced by you just with your presence.  
25 I can feel the strength.

1                    ~~MS. ROWENA COOTES~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

2                    That's a good compliment. Thank you. Thank you very much.

3                    ~~MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN~~: My dad was like  
4                    that too.

5                    ~~MS. ROWENA COOTES~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

6                    M'hm.

7                    ~~MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN~~: And if he  
8                    (inaudible).

9                    ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

10                   M'hm. We're just about wrapped up, eh?

11                   ~~MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN~~: Yeah. I can  
12                   imagine you guys just sitting around (inaudible).

13                   ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

14                   Yeah.

15                   ~~MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN~~: You know, your dad  
16                   and your granddad and just analyzing it, kind of like how  
17                   people who are ambitious, they read books about people who  
18                   have the key to what they want to do. And then make kind  
19                   of a recipe that ---

20                   ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. ROWENA COOTES]:

21                   M'hm.

22                   ~~MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN~~: And so think about  
23                   how you can do that.

24                   Oh, you're really beautiful, and I'm so  
25                   sorry that this happened to your mom. And I'm so sorry

1 that -- for every time that some idiot treats you in a way  
2 you shouldn't be treated.

3 And the thing is that -- I know there's  
4 another really famous saying that I read when I was much  
5 younger and I just can't remember the exact quote but it  
6 says something like, you know, "Our duty to ourselves at  
7 first is just not to take on what it is that people are  
8 saying about us." It's like a fart. Like if you could  
9 just sort of seeing it like a fart that let it move to the  
10 air. Like it just ---

11 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Think about that --  
13 -

14 ~~**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
15 Yeah.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- when someone  
17 says something stupid.

18 ~~**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
19 It's my time.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But don't tell  
21 them.

22 ~~**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**  
23 I think (inaudible).

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's like, you  
25 know, meditation teaches that too, is that there's a lot of

1 delusions in your brain. Like, and you get to a point  
2 where you learn. You go, "Oh, there you go again," you  
3 know? Like, you got to -- we've got to realize that our  
4 brain farts sometimes and it gives us these stupid ideas  
5 that we just should not attach to as if it's someone  
6 actually giving us something tangible.

7 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

8 Yeah.

9 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Takes us down the  
10 wrong road.

11 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

12 M'hm.

13 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

14 You know (inaudible) and oh God, I made that turn. And I  
15 turned.

16 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So where do you  
17 guys get your beautiful feathers?

18 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:

19 My husband, he just loves looking on the beach all the time  
20 and he finds them every time, eh. And he just is a man  
21 that just -- and I go, I find nothing but rocks perhaps.  
22 But not feathers. So he's the one that gets the -- would  
23 you like one?

24 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: He's gifted.

25 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ [ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:

1 Yeah. He's gifted to find them.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh my goodness.

3 Thank you so much.

4 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**

5 Elder.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Inaudible) wow.

7 Thank you.

8 ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:**

9 (Inaudible) nice.

10 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Thank you. Such an  
11 honour to be given one.

12 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Because (inaudible).

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's just so  
14 amazing.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Sorry, I made  
16 (inaudible).

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Can I have your  
18 shirt too?

19 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Before everyone leaves  
20 I want to thank the family for allowing me to sit in with  
21 you. This as very ~~(inaudible)~~ [touching story, it's umm].  
22 And I hurt. I feel your pain.

23 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

24 **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** And I'm honoured to be  
25 able to come in here and be of any help that I can. And

1           thank you for allowing me to be here.

2                       **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you.

3                       **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** May I also thank you  
4           too because when you're talking about your loved one that  
5           has left this earth it's a real spiritual journey that  
6           you're on when you're talking, you know, about them. And  
7           you know, they're here.

8                       **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

9                       **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** You know, they're here  
10          with us and you know, they're listening to you and how we  
11          talk about them and we talk in such a respectful, loving,  
12          caring manner. That's (inaudible) [healing] for you all to  
13          share that story. And [I know how hard that must be for  
14          you. I lost a loved one to] ~~that must be brave~~ (inaudible)  
15          ~~her~~ murder. And I really commend you for sharing your  
16          story. You know, I hope that you continue to (inaudible)  
17          and you know, continue your journey.

18                      **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah.

19                      **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Yeah. Because you  
20          know how it makes you feel to continue your journey.

21                      **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. No, I was -- it's  
22          just a matter of will. I'm not going to go (inaudible)  
23          [somewhere].

24                      **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** M'hm. It will come.

25                      **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** But like I said, I don't



1           crave it when I'm here.

2                       **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** And you're doing well.

3                       **MR. WAYNE KEITLAH:** Yeah. Thank you. I  
4           guess.

5                       ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**

6           Thank you. I felt your presence.

7                       ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**

8           Somebody did.

9                       **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah, it was here.

10                      ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[MS. CYNTHIA KEITLAH]:**

11           Cares anyway.

12                      ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[MS. ROWENA COOTES]:** I

13           just want to share something about (inaudible) [my] sister.

14           She was in a (inaudible) [she needed a rock or a crystal]

15           or something and she was sitting in (inaudible) that? I

16           just did not say that. (Inaudible) memory. It's just --

17           the place was given to me from her daughter and she said,

18           "You (inaudible) [We've got a lot of nuts in our family]."

19                      She said, "I just want you to remember me as

20           being one of those nuts."

21                      **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Aw, that's sweet.

22                      ~~UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER~~ **[ELDER GERTIE PIERRE]:**

23           You're so sweet.

24                      **ELDER GERTIE PIERRE:** Nice way to end

25           everything by giving us a laugh.

1                                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah, okay. Thank  
2                   you.

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4                   --- Upon adjourning

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Karen Noganosh, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

  
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Karen Noganosh

October 2, 2017