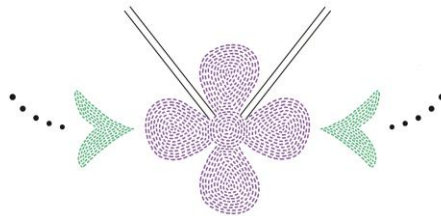


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process  
Part I Statement Gathering  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Ramada Hotel**



**PUBLIC**

**Tuesday August 7, 2018**

**Statement - Volume 449  
Gloria Skinner & Alexander Skinner,  
In relation to Mary Bertha “Bee” Willard,  
[Niece 1] & Christopher Willard**

**Statement gathered by Kate Langham**

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## II

### NOTE

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

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**Documents submitted with testimony:**

Item 1: Online *Edmonton Journal* newspaper article dated March 16, 2011 by Mariam Ibrahim "Man found guilty of murdering cousin" (two pages)

Item 2: Online *Edmonton Journal* newspaper article dated March 25, 2011 by Jana G Pruden "Edmonton judge gives man life for cousin's brutal murder" (three pages)

1 Edmonton, Alberta

2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 13:55

3 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. So, this is Kate  
4 Langham. I'm a statement gatherer with the National  
5 Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and  
6 Girls. It is August 7<sup>th</sup>, and 1:55, and we are here at the  
7 Ramada in Edmonton. So, if you could introduce yourself?

8 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Okay. My name is  
9 Gloria Jane Celestine Skinner, and I live in Fort McMurray,  
10 Alberta, and I'm originally from Chase, British Columbia.

11 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Myself, I'm  
12 Alexander Maxwell Skinner, living in Fort McMurray as well.  
13 I'm Gloria Skinner's son.

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Great. Okay. Well,  
15 thank you for coming and being with us here today, and I  
16 just would like you to start wherever it is that you feel  
17 comfortable to start and share your truth.

18 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Okay. I just wanted to  
19 give a few little things that I wanted to talk about.  
20 They're just one-line sentences right now.

21 We are sisters; same father, different  
22 mothers. That's my sister Mary Bertha Willard. She is the  
23 one that was murdered. We were residential school  
24 survivors. She was a dancer and I was into sports at the  
25 school, in the residential school. We were both married to

1 abusers. I divorced and she never did, but she separated.

2 We were both travellers, mainly in B.C. and  
3 Washington. We both worked the same kind of jobs until  
4 later years, like late 40's and 50 years old. We lived  
5 together off and on for years. We both lost a child in  
6 early years. I lost Keith and Roland; she lost Audrey, her  
7 oldest.

8 And then the ending, looking forward ahead,  
9 her children, [Niece 1] and Chris, didn't make it, they  
10 more or less committed suicide, I guess. We know trauma  
11 continues through generations. The children, Bee's  
12 grandchildren, are living with grandparents on their dad's  
13 side of the family here in Alberta, [First Nation 1]. Our  
14 hope is that the children grow up strong and healthy. Her  
15 grandchildren were [Grandson 1], [Granddaughter 1]  
16 (phonetic) and [Grandson 2].

17 And this is my introductory, the things that  
18 I wanted to talk about personally, and I also brought in  
19 some court things.

20 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. You have some  
21 documents that you would like to share with the Inquiry?

22 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yes.

23 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. Okay, I can  
24 collect those at the end, maybe, and you can tell us about  
25 them and why you wanted to submit them?

1 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: But, for now, would you  
3 like to share with us any of the details around your  
4 sister's murder?

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Any of the details?

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes. What led up to it?  
7 Unless there's somewhere else you want to start? Because  
8 that's great, too. If you want to share in a different  
9 way, that's perfect.

10 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Can I just read a thing  
11 from the paper?

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Absolutely. Yes.

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Man found guilty of  
14 murdering cousin. Woman was stabbed more than 30 times.  
15 March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

16 Edmonton - A man was found guilty Wednesday  
17 for stabbing his cousin more than 30 times nearly seven  
18 years ago. Well, this would be longer now. Court of  
19 Queen's Bench Justice Kenneth Nielsen found Jason Steven  
20 Philip, 42, guilty of second-degree murder in the stabbing  
21 death of Mary Bertha Willard, 58, in late June 2004.

22 In 2007, a jury found Philip guilty of  
23 killing Willard. He was sentenced to life in prison with  
24 no chance of parole for 20 years, double the minimum period  
25 for parole eligibility on a murder conviction.

1                   The verdict was overturned last March by the  
2                   Alberta Court of Appeal, which found the judge in the  
3                   previous trial gave "flawed" instructions to the jury.

4                   Willard was found face down in the basement  
5                   of her home on the night of June 27, 2004, her body stuffed  
6                   behind the furnace and covered with a foam mattress. She  
7                   was last seen the day before when police came to her home  
8                   after she called 911 to report a disturbance between her  
9                   and Philip.

10                   During the trial, court heard testimony that  
11                   she was killed in the kitchen before her body was moved.

12                   In his ruling, Nielsen said forensic  
13                   evidence gathered pointed to Philip as the killer,  
14                   including a pair of his running shoes that had traces of  
15                   Willard's blood on them.

16                   Philip, who was 35 at the time of the  
17                   killing, had come to Alberta to find work, but left  
18                   Edmonton by bus before Willard's body was found. Police  
19                   seized his blood-splattered shoes when Philip was arrested  
20                   later in Kelowna, B.C.

21                   Nielsen also pointed to key evidence given  
22                   by Philip's mother, who testified that her son confessed to  
23                   her.

24                   During the trial, court heard Philip told  
25                   his mother he had been drinking the night of the killing

1 and blacked out, only to come to while he was on top of  
2 Willard, stabbing her.

3 While Nielsen accepted the confession, he  
4 ruled that despite Philip's level of intoxication, he was  
5 able to form the intent to kill. "The nature of the  
6 injuries inflicted demonstrates an intent to kill," Nielsen  
7 said.

8 He dismissed the defence's argument that  
9 Willard could have been killed during the course of a  
10 robbery. Shortly before her murder, Willard won \$25,000  
11 playing bingo, but Nielsen ruled it was unlikely a thief  
12 would go to the extreme lengths of cleaning the kitchen and  
13 moving her body.

14 During the trial, a forensic pathologist  
15 testified that Willard was stabbed 30 times, with all but  
16 one of the wounds clustered around the back of her head,  
17 neck and her torso. Some of the wounds were delivered with  
18 enough force to break Willard's ribs.

19 Philip did not take the stand in his defence  
20 at either trial, but maintained his innocence after he was  
21 found guilty the first time, calling his mother a liar.

22 He has a lengthy criminal record that  
23 includes convictions for stabbings and attempted stabbings  
24 involving a prostitute, a friend, his sister and his  
25 father.



1 Philip remained expressionless while Nielsen  
2 delivered his ruling Wednesday, but turned to two  
3 supporters in the gallery and raised his eyebrows after the  
4 final verdict was given.

5 A sentencing hearing is scheduled for March  
6 25.

7 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** What paper was that  
8 article in?

9 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** The Edmonton  
10 Journal.

11 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Edmonton Journal.

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** The Edmonton Journal?

13 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

15 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, I think, too,  
16 you had something.

17 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I had another one.

18 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Well, you had  
19 something -- you had some stuff that was a little bit with  
20 how you felt during it.

21 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** This was the first  
22 court.

23 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

24 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** That's the schedule, the  
25 court schedule there?

1 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yes.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: All the witnesses and  
4 detectives and all that.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Did your family  
6 receive any support going through the court process?

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yes, but everything was  
8 -- I was getting ready for heart surgery.

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

10 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, for court, they  
11 wouldn't let -- they wouldn't let me go to court because of  
12 that, because of...

13 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

14 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: But, I did make it to  
15 the appeal.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Okay. Was it,  
17 like, court workers or Victim Services, do you know, that  
18 would have supported your family through any of that?

19 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Victim Services, but we  
20 didn't take it ---

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: --- because we passed  
23 it down to the next person, whoever needed ---

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh, I see.

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Like, there was a list

1 of us.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, if we didn't need  
4 it, pass it on to the next one.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: I see. Okay.

6 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: That's how they -- I  
7 don't know. That's how it's always done.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes. What about, like,  
9 emotional support or anything like that?

10 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Emotional support? I  
11 was seeing a residential school ---

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: What do you call them?

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Like a counsellor?

15 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I was seeing one of  
18 them already, so I didn't...

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: You just continued to --  
20 to see your counsellor that you had a relationship with  
21 there?

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yes.

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

24 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And so, he helped me  
25 out. And, I don't know who [Daughter 1] got.

1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** We think -- you had  
2                   a lot of the family support. There was a lot of support  
3                   that was offered.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

5                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** There was tons that  
6                   was offered.

7                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

8                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, everything was  
9                   -- they did -- Victim Services was actually in touch with  
10                  us quite a bit ---

11                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

12                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- just following  
13                  up. I think even each time that we had to even go in and  
14                  speak with somebody with Edmonton Police Services and  
15                  things like that ---

16                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

17                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- they were --  
18                  they would follow up with us.

19                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

20                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And, [Crown  
21                  prosecutor], who was part of the Crown prosecution, made  
22                  sure that they kept up with us. The biggest thing that mom  
23                  wanted to push down was that [Niece 1] and Chris, which  
24                  were Auntie's children, had the services. We had some on  
25                  our side already, so mom just wanted to make sure that all

1 that stuff was properly given to them.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right. So that all the  
3 formal supports ---

4 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- went to her children.

6 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

8 MS. GRAHAM: And then your family, you guys  
9 just mainly supported each other.

10 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Each other.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Yeah, through your  
12 family network there.

13 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

14 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah, because they live  
15 down here.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: [Niece 1] and Chris  
18 lived down here in Edmonton.

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

20 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, we lived up in --  
21 all of us lived up in Fort McMurray.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right. Okay.

23 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And so, I just passed  
24 it down to them, down here.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

1 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, this one here is  
2 the one they let me go to.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: This is the appeal  
4 hearing?

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: It was very hard for me  
8 because -- shocking.

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

10 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Was -- I guess is the  
11 best word.

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I was really, really  
14 shocked at a lot of the stuff that ---

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Evidence and stuff like  
16 that? Yeah.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

19 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: But, they were good.  
20 The police and that, they were really good.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Yeah.

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: They took me out when I  
23 needed to go out and ---

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: So, they were really

1 supportive.

2 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Right. But, it  
3 was still obviously really hard to be in the room and hear  
4 those details ---

5 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** --- and see evidence?

7 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

8 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, okay.

9 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Okay. And this one,  
10 this is where it starts or -- it must be.

11 Edmonton - it was Jason Philip's second  
12 trial for the brutal murder of his cousin, Mary "Bee"  
13 Willard -- "Bee" was her nickname.

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

15 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** But the guilty verdict  
16 was the same, as was the sentence: Life in prison with no  
17 chance of parole for 20 years.

18 On Friday, Willard's sister, Gloria Skinner,  
19 told an Edmonton courtroom she was thankful the case had  
20 been appealed and had gone to a second trial, which gave  
21 her the chance to come to terms with the death.

22 "I will let my sister Bee go in peace,"  
23 Skinner said. "Thank you for your appeal, Jason. I feel a  
24 lot stronger now physically and emotionally...Thank you for  
25 a second chance."

1 Philip had been living with Willard in  
2 Edmonton, in the summer of 2004, after coming to the  
3 province from B.C. to find work.

4 The two were alone together in Willard's  
5 house when Philip stabbed her 30 times with a kitchen knife  
6 in the head, neck and back. Many of the cuts were so  
7 violent they severed bones.

8 Philip then dumped the 58-year-old's body in  
9 the corner of the basement, carefully cleaned up the murder  
10 scene, and fled with some of her belongings. Willard was  
11 last seen alive early on the morning of June 26, and her  
12 body was discovered the next evening.

13 Originally convicted of murder after a trial  
14 in 2007, Philip continued to deny the crime and said the  
15 jury had convicted an innocent man.

16 He got a second chance to argue his case  
17 after the Court of Appeal found there were problems with  
18 the instructions given to the jury during his trial.

19 The second trial was heard at Edmonton Court  
20 of Queen's Bench this month, and Philip was again convicted  
21 of second-degree murder.

22 In a statement to the court before his  
23 sentencing Friday, Philip admitted to the crime but said  
24 the killing happened during while he was slipping in and  
25 out of an alcohol- and Valium-induced blackout. He told



1 court he and Willard had got into a heated argument, and  
2 that he began stabbing her after the two fell to the floor  
3 in a puddle of beer.

4 "This never would have happened if I was  
5 sober," he said.

6 He said he realizes now that alcohol is "my  
7 enemy."

8 "Unfortunately, it took a beautiful person's  
9 death to make me realize I can no longer drink," he said.

10 The 42-year-old also reiterated his belief  
11 that he should have been convicted of manslaughter, not  
12 murder, and asked for a shorter period of parole  
13 eligibility.

14 But Crown prosecutor Kimberley Goddard  
15 argued that Philip should have to spend at least 20 years  
16 in prison before applying for parole, noting he has a long,  
17 violent record that includes serious knife attacks on  
18 people close to him, including his father, his sister, and  
19 a woman he had been living with. In that case, Philip  
20 stabbed the woman multiple times.

21 Goddard called Philip a "highly-dangerous  
22 person" with little prospect for rehabilitation, and said  
23 he has been given opportunities for help in the past -  
24 including from Willard.

25 "She welcomed him with open arms...and how

1 does he repay this generosity?" she asked. "By butchering  
2 her in her own home."

3 Defence lawyer Mona Duckett argued for a  
4 shorter period incarceration before parole eligibility.  
5 She said her client's life has been marked with serious  
6 addictions issues.

7 Justice K.G. Nielsen said Philip's level of  
8 intoxication may have been an explanation, but was not an  
9 excuse.

10 He said there were no mitigating  
11 circumstances to the "very brutal and senseless murder."

12 After the sentencing, Willard's family held  
13 a short ceremony, smudging, drumming and singing a  
14 traditional song in her honour.

15 "We're trying to let go of the spirit of our  
16 sister, so she can be free," said Willard's sister-in-law,  
17 Hayley Dennis.

18 Standing outside the courthouse in the cold,  
19 Willard's sister, Marie Narcisse, said it was working.

20 "It finishes everything," she said. "It  
21 finishes it for us. Now maybe he, inside, can heal.  
22 That's my hope."

23 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, that was another  
24 article?

25 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Pardon me?

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: That was an article  
2 there?

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yes.

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Was that the Edmonton  
5 Journal again?

6 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yes.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

8 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I don't know. Maybe it  
9 was Vancouver Sun.

10 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah, it's the  
11 Edmonton Journal. They're just citing the Vancouver Sun.

12 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And then there's a  
13 picture of me and Hayley drumming and singing, and there's  
14 one of us smudging.

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Drumming and singing.

16 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, I have a picture  
17 of my sister.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

19 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: This is her.

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: This is Mary Bertha  
21 Willard, known as "Bee".

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: These ones you don't  
23 need yet.

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: We haven't talked about

1           them yet.

2                           **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. Thank you.

3                           **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And, is that enough for  
4           that part?

5                           **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Sure. Yeah. Whatever --  
6           whatever you're comfortable with here.

7                           **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I gave a statement,  
8           too. I don't know where I put it. I gave -- like, when I  
9           did the Victim Impact ---

10                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Ah yes.

11                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** --- in court.

12                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

13                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I said this one part  
14           where I told -- I looked Jason right in the eyes. I said,  
15           "Jason, one of these days -- one of these days I will  
16           forgive you." And then all the newspapers just started  
17           clicking, flashing. The lights were just ---

18                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** I bet.

19                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Because I guess they  
20           thought I was going to say something else.

21                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. You were just  
22           kind.

23                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I think they thought I  
24           was going to have him killed or something.

25                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Yeah.

1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** I think they had --  
2           I think on this.

3                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, yeah.

4                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** This had some good  
5           stuff that would be -- this was some really good thoughts  
6           for you to -- let's go there and see where that...

7                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I've experienced the  
8           loss of someone as close to me -- I don't know.

9                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** No?

10                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Not yet.

11                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** That's okay. Would you  
12           like some water?

13                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Thanks.

14                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Did you want to stop for  
15           a minute?

16                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah, maybe.

17                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, sure. We'll do  
18           that.

19           --- Upon recessing

20           --- Upon resuming at 14:24

21                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Great. So, we just took  
22           a couple of minutes, and it's 2:24.

23                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I have experienced the  
24           loss of someone as close to me as my own parents. Bee was  
25           my sister, friend, confidante, mother and mentor. She was

**Statement - Public**  
**Gloria & Alexander Skinner**  
**(Mary Bertha Willard, Niece 1**  
**& Christopher Willard)**

19

1 kind, gentle, fun, loving, caring and generous. Her family  
2 meant everything to her. She never turned anyone away in  
3 need of help. So, when she told me she had Jason living  
4 with her and she was helping him to find a job, it never  
5 occurred to me that she was in danger, especially with  
6 someone so closely related to her on her mother's side of  
7 the family.

8 News of her death was so shocking. My mind  
9 blocked out so much and I was like a zombie arranging her  
10 funeral. It was like a nightmare and I couldn't wake up.  
11 I wanted to wake up and tell her, "Oh my God, Bee, I dreamt  
12 that Jason killed you." But, as reality set in, I slowly  
13 blocked it out of my mind. I cried so much because  
14 everywhere I went, there was reminders of her.

15 Then I stopped crying and hardened my heart  
16 to it all. Now, with court all finished, I would like for  
17 my sister to be free and happy with all of the other  
18 ancestors in the spirit side. Her memory I will keep safe  
19 in my heart.

20 And, she -- Mary Bertha Willard,  
21 [birthdate]; died June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004. She was 58-years-old.  
22 Her daughter, [Niece 1's full name] [birthdate]; died April  
23 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. She was 39-years-old. Christopher Norman  
24 Willard, her son, [birthdate]; died February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. He  
25 was 46-years-old. And those are her children. They were

1 very traumatized and couldn't deal with her death, and  
2 slowly committed suicide.

3 They couldn't -- Christopher told me one  
4 time, "Auntie," he said, "If I was there -- I wish I was  
5 there to help her." He said, "I can't get over -- I can  
6 never get over that. I'll feel guilty for the rest of my  
7 life for not being there with her." And, I don't know -- I  
8 don't know about [Niece 1]. [Niece 1] was -- she never  
9 really did open up to me. She was -- she was into drugs,  
10 heavy -- heavily drugs.

11 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Was there a  
12 struggle with addictions prior to the death of their mom  
13 that just got worse over time, or was it -- was it  
14 something that came on following Bee's murder?

15 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Um...

16 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** It was -- it was  
17 magnified.

18 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

19 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah. There was ---

20 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

21 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah. There was --  
22 you know -- it wasn't actual substance abuse on both sides  
23 beforehand, actually.

24 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Just some use?

25 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah, some use.

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

2 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And then with the  
3 death of ---

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

5 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: --- Bee, it got ---

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: The response to the  
7 trauma ---

8 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- was too much there.  
10 Yeah, okay.

11 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: It became too hard  
12 even for the family to -- for us to even step in and help  
13 them.

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

15 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And, I think that's  
16 where we had a -- and that was immediate, you know; right?  
17 As soon as Bee was murdered, when we were trying to arrange  
18 the funeral, mom had to leave [Niece 1] behind in Edmonton  
19 because ---

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

21 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: --- she just  
22 couldn't ---

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

24 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: --- take it on.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.



1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And so, it just  
2                   amplified incidentally from that point and it never,  
3                   ever ---

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Of course.

5                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- slowed down.

6                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

7                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, I think that was  
8                   -- that was probably one of the hard things to go through  
9                   at that point, too, was ---

10                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Not being able to help  
11                  them.

12                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

13                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

14                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Wanting to reach out and  
15                  connect, but just not being able too. Yeah.

16                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Mm-hmm. And, we  
17                  didn't even know where to point them.

18                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

19                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** That was the hard  
20                  thing.

21                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Oh okay. Okay.

22                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, we were blessed,  
23                  and we had our support group, and mom had her counsellor  
24                  that she was working with. So, we had that, and we didn't  
25                  know where to send Chris and [Niece 1] for things like

1           that.

2                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right. Because they were  
3 here in Edmonton.

4                       **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** I mean, because they  
5 were here in Edmonton.

6                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

7                       **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And then, you know,  
8 different financial situation as well.

9                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

10                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, I think that was  
11 a really hard thing, was -- you know, we seen it happening,  
12 but we didn't know -- we seen all these open doors, but  
13 there always has to be -- that person, when you look at  
14 those options that are there, that person already has to be  
15 three steps into the ---

16                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

17                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- into fixing  
18 themselves. And so, [Niece 1] and Chris weren't there, so  
19 we didn't know what ---

20                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

21                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- we could do to  
22 help them.

23                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, of course.

24                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And, I think that  
25 was the hardest thing. And, mom, you know, came out of --

1       you know, was just dealing with some stuff, with health  
2       things at that time.

3                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

4                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, I think you --  
5       you had a hard time with that. I remember that was one of  
6       the hardest things you had, was you didn't know where to  
7       send them.

8                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, okay.

9                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

10                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Or what direction to  
11       point them into.

12                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** What they would be open  
13       to.

14                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

15                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Would the services be a  
16       fit, you know, all of those things. Yeah.

17                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, I think that was  
18       -- I think that's one big thing that came out of that. It  
19       was trying to see -- because we -- like I said, we had our  
20       own thing that we could do, but we didn't know what  
21       services were available to really help them out.

22                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

23                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** I mean, we were  
24       presented with trauma counsellors and things like that,  
25       but...

1                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I think one of the --  
2                   one of the reasons how it really escalated too was just  
3                   before Bee's death, when she won that money. I thought it  
4                   was \$50,000. They're saying \$25,000. It was \$50,000.  
5                   Anyways, she won that just before she died and then [Niece  
6                   1] probably got her hands on it and blew it, blew the money  
7                   on her drugs.

8                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

9                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Because she said she  
10                  gave some to Chris too, and Chris was ---

11                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

12                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Just in the same  
13                  spot she was.

14                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

15                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

16                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** So, it really just sped  
17                  up ---

18                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

19                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** --- some really awful  
20                  process there.

21                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** All that money.

22                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, okay.

23                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And then [Niece 1], she  
24                  pawned off a lot of these knick-knacks, things that she  
25                  cherished. [Niece 1] pawned them all off.

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: To feed that addiction  
2 beast there? Okay.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm. And, Bee, one  
4 of her things, she always, always wanted to be a  
5 grandmother, and she was a grandmother a year after she  
6 died.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

8 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: [Niece 1] had a baby,  
9 [Grandson 1].

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, [Niece 1]'s son is  
11 living with the paternal grandparents, is that what you  
12 said?

13 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

15 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

16 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: [Niece 1]'s children.

17 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

18 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

19 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: I guess some other  
20 context is you're the eldest sister.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

22 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: So, that was the  
23 hard thing.

24 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

25 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: [Niece 1] and

1 Christopher are yours then.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh okay.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah. So, I was  
6 supposed to be their caretaker, because she passed, because  
7 she was older than me.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

9 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: She was older than me  
10 by six months.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. So, you guys grew  
12 up together, then, did you?

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, in the same  
15 community?

16 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: It wasn't like that at  
17 all, all the time. She had -- was -- she was born in  
18 Tappen, B.C., which is about 30 -- about 30 miles from  
19 Chase.

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

21 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, her mother,  
22 Christine Philips, she moved to Seattle when Bee was born,  
23 after she was born, when she was a baby. And, her mother  
24 was also killed.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

1                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** In just about the same  
2 way.

3                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** In the States when she  
4 was living there?

5                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** In Seattle.

6                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** In Seattle? Okay. Do  
7 you know how old Bee was, about, when her mom was killed?

8                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** She was only about a  
9 year-and-a-half.

10                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Oh, just a little one.

11                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah. And then my dad  
12 went down and got her.

13                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

14                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And, she came up and  
15 stayed with us until she was about four, three or four.  
16 And then her grandmother came and took her, and she only  
17 had her for a little while, and then the residential  
18 school, the police came and took her to the residential  
19 school.

20                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** When she was around five-  
21 years-old or something? Yeah?

22                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

23                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Did you attend the same  
24 school ---

25                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yes.

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- as your sister?

2 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh yes.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: What school?

4 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Kamloops Indian  
5 Residential School.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Until you were how old?

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Sixteen.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Both of you were around  
9 16 then?

10 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And then after school you  
12 returned to your home community or did the travelling begin  
13 then?

14 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah, sort of.

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

16 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Did she go back to  
17 Chase with you?

18 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: She was already in  
19 Chase. She was already with [C.].

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

21 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: She was already with  
22 her husband.

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, you spoke a bit  
24 about the fact that this was a violent relationship?

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh yes.



1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

2 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, they were together  
4 for how long, would you say?

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Her and I used to  
6 always break up with our husbands, get back together again.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

8 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And so, it was like  
9 that. It was like that for me for 13 years with my  
10 husband.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay, yeah.

12 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Off and on, off and on,  
13 back and forth ---

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Until you were ---

15 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Back and forth.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Round and round it  
18 goes.

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Yeah. And, for  
20 Bee, it went on longer?

21 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah, it did.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Were there any support  
23 services then for women who were living in violent  
24 relationships?

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh no.

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: No?

2 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: No. I was the first  
3 one on our reserve to get a divorce.

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, people, the elders  
6 used to tell me, quit airing my laundry -- dirty laundry  
7 out in public.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: So, there was a ---

9 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: You made your bed, lay  
10 in it.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right. A big don't talk  
12 about it thing ---

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- happening there.  
15 Okay.

16 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: So, we never, ever got  
17 any.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

19 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: We just had to fight  
20 our own battles.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Chase was pretty much  
23 known as "Little New York" when we were growing up. There  
24 was so much killings going on and ---

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

1 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: --- so much alcohol and  
2 so much -- every abuse you could think of.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right. So, it was pretty  
4 -- violence was pretty normalized then ---

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- in the community of  
7 Chase, yeah, during that time. Okay.

8 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: So, you couldn't go to  
9 anybody for help.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right. So, you and your  
11 sister were supports for each other, then, during that  
12 time?

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Okay. How many  
15 other siblings do you have in your family?

16 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh my gosh. Lots.

17 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Bee was the oldest?

18 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh no.

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh no? Okay.

20 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: We were all in the  
21 middle.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

23 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: On my dad's side,  
24 there's, I think, 25.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay, yeah. Just a

1 couple.

2 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Maybe some missing yet.  
3 I don't know. And, on my mom's side, it was -- I think I  
4 counted 14.

5 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

6 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And then I had an aunt  
7 that adopted me, kind of adopted me. I used to stay with  
8 her a lot when I was growing up. But, more or less I was  
9 her babysitter, I guess. She was never, ever home. So, I  
10 looked after the kids, younger kids. And, from the  
11 residential school, you're supposed to have family come and  
12 pick you up. For me, it was always whoever needed a  
13 babysitter, whoever was pregnant at the time ---

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

15 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** --- whoever needed --  
16 like, my oldest sister, Laura, she came and got me one time  
17 because she was pregnant. And, my stepmother came and got  
18 me a couple of times when she was pregnant. You know,  
19 just ---

20 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

21 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I never went home with  
22 the same ---

23 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

24 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And, I never knew what  
25 a mother, and father, and brother, and sister was, and all

1           that.

2                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

3                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Really.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Of course. Yeah. Yeah.

5                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** If somebody told me I  
6 was there sister, hm, sure.

7                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

8                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah. I guess I was  
9 just brought up all over the reserve, I guess.

10                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Always sort of in a  
11 caregiving kind of a role you were in, yeah.

12                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

13                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** You were taking care of  
14 kids.

15                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

16                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. And, how many  
17 children do you have? You mentioned that there was a loss,  
18 you've lost two children?

19                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah. Those were my  
20 two oldest.

21                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

22                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** They -- the oldest one,  
23 Keith, was born with a hole in his heart, 1964, and he --  
24 in those days, they couldn't do operations yet on babies.

25                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

1                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** So, that's how I lost  
2                   him. He was born with a hole in his heart. And then with  
3                   Roland, I lost him through suicide.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

5                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And then I have  
6                   [Daughter 1], [Daughter 2], [Son 1] and Alex left. I have  
7                   four left.

8                   **MS. GRAHAM:** Two sons and two daughters?

9                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yes.

10                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** [Son 1], that's a great  
11                  name. And so, as your family moves forward here, how do  
12                  you draw strength? How do you keep going?

13                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** My husband.

14                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** So, you've remarried?

15                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yes.

16                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

17                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** We've been married for  
18                  -- how old are you?

19                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Thirty-two.

20                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Thirty-two? Okay,  
21                  we've been together for 34 years.

22                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

23                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** At least she didn't  
24                  call me [Son 1] this time.

25                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Well, there's, like, a

1 long list of names to go through to get to yours. Yeah.

2 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Sometimes I get  
3 that, Way-Alex.

4 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Way-Alex. You've been  
5 married for 34 years now?

6 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yes.

7 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Wow. And, he's a  
8 big source of support for you?

9 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yes.

10 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

11 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, it sounds like your  
13 family really pulled together in Fort McMurray there to  
14 support each other through that time?

15 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yes, we did.

16 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. And, you were  
17 offered some services, but you just kind of wanted to  
18 funnel those towards Bee's kids, [Niece 1] and Chris, and  
19 used your own network to support yourself there ---

20 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

21 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** --- through those times.

22 Okay.

23 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** That was my best way of  
24 helping my sister, still, you know, like...

25 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

1                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** The way I get through  
2                   that is I know if it was me that went, and it was her  
3                   behind, she would do anything and everything for my kids.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Yeah.

5                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And, I felt bad when  
6                   Chris and [Niece 1] both went. For Bee, a year after she  
7                   passed away -- was it a year?

8                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** For?

9                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Her memorial.

10                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** No, we did it a  
11                  little bit later.

12                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yeah. It was after  
13                  my heart operation.

14                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah, and then we  
15                  had to -- yeah, because we were going to wait for [Niece  
16                  1], but we decided not to.

17                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** For the memorial.

18                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Mm-hmm. So, yeah,  
19                  you had your heart operation. So, it was about two years.

20                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** You had a memorial for  
21                  her?

22                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** We had a really huge  
23                  one.

24                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay, tell me about that.

25                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** We planned it -- we



1           planned it, actually, right from the -- right from the time  
2           she passed away.

3                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

4                       **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** We started planning,  
5           and by the time we finished planning, it was so huge, eh?

6                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Lots of people attended?

7                       **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yes. I can't even  
8           tell you how many people was there.

9                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. And, how did you  
10          commemorate her in your -- at the memorial? How did you  
11          honour her life and celebrate her?

12                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** We had a big huge  
13          giveaway. We did it for, what, three days or four?

14                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Four days.

15                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Four days.

16                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

17                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** We did it for four  
18          days. We had two tents, two tents set up, two big huge  
19          tents set up. One for drumming and singing, and one for  
20          food. And then we -- it was all set up beside the hall,  
21          community hall, and there was kids, there was activities  
22          for kids, activities for teenagers, activities for adults.

23                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

24                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Activities for elders.  
25          We thought of everybody.

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Wow.

2 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: There's stick games  
3 and ---

4 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Wow. Yeah. Great. So,  
6 did it feel like a celebration of her life?

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah? Okay.

9 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: I guess I'm wondering  
11 about what kind of recommendations you would have about  
12 some of the changes that are necessary? Like, I hear you  
13 very clearly saying, you know, we would have loved to have  
14 done more but we didn't know where to go to help Chris and  
15 [Niece 1]. Thinking about it, you know, what would have  
16 made that easier, or what would you have wanted that you  
17 just couldn't find for them?

18 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I think for Chris, I  
19 would have really, really -- you know, if I came down and  
20 spent some time with him, I would have really, really  
21 wanted him to go into the spiritual stuff, the Sun Dance,  
22 and sweat lodge, and all that.

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Mm-hmm.

24 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Because those are  
25 what helped you.

1 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I would have liked him  
4 to go and learn from some of the other people on the  
5 reserve how to go hunting, how to go fishing, how to do  
6 those kind of things.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

8 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: What else? You know,  
9 just spiritual things like that.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

11 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I think if I would have  
12 came down and spent some time with him, that's what I would  
13 have said, "Come on, let's go home."

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right. You would have,  
15 yeah, liked to bring him back to his traditional territory  
16 and lean into cultural support and spirituality there.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Yeah.

19 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Because, yeah, I  
20 think that stuff is -- I think that stuff is important just  
21 seeing how I've grown up with you going through residential  
22 school. So, I can kind of see -- you see the different  
23 side of it, right, when you grow up there. So, you  
24 understand things differently. It's not -- it's a very  
25 different way to learn things, but sometimes you need to be

1 in it to kind of learn it; right? So, I can kind of see  
2 where that would be -- where you would want to go with  
3 that.

4 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, that was important  
5 for you in your healing process also, to ---

6 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yes.

7 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** --- Sun Dance and sweat  
8 lodge and connecting with knowledge keepers and ---

9 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

10 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. Yeah.

11 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** It was very, very  
12 important for me.

13 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Mm-hmm. I guess I'm  
14 wondering, like, if there was anything, you know, any  
15 programs or services, you know, that could be created or  
16 would have been really helpful to help you with that;  
17 right? Because you were going through your own process  
18 there, and you had a bunch of health challenges, and it  
19 wasn't possible for you to come here and, you know, connect  
20 with him and drag him back up to his territory. So, I  
21 guess I'm just wondering, yeah, if you have any thoughts  
22 about what -- what could have helped you with that?  
23 Because that's a lot to even take on for one person; right?  
24 Especially when someone is trapped in their addictions and  
25 resistant to those kind of things.

1                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** His family on his  
2 father's side were very -- they're not the same spiritual  
3 as I am.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

5                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** They're Catholic.

6                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

7                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And so, to me, they're  
8 very judgmental.

9                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

10                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** "Oh, he's drunk again?"

11                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** I see.

12                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** "Oh yeah, he tried  
13 calling and I just hung up on him."

14                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Shame; right?

15                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

16                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, okay.

17                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** So, there was no  
18 support on his father's side.

19                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

20                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah, and that's --  
21 I'm going to kind of assume where we're reaching at with  
22 this. I think that was kind of what was the hard thing,  
23 because there is no family here; right?

24                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right. Yeah.

25                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, like, some

1 different social supports that would -- that you think that  
2 would help? Because when I looked back on it, like, I  
3 think that, you know, where they were was kind of hard,  
4 understandably; right? You've lost your mother in such a  
5 violent way. I mean, there's no telling how somebody is  
6 going to react to, you know, just losing a parent in  
7 general; right?

8 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** For sure. Yeah.

9 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** I think they were  
10 both very social people. I think that would have been the  
11 nice thing, is if there was, you know -- I don't even know  
12 what would help. Like, I look at how sometimes the  
13 Friendship Centre helps out in different ways by kind of  
14 conglomerating people together and people of like-mind,  
15 because getting somebody -- like, there would be no way of  
16 putting Chris into just a rehab, right?

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** No.

18 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Because that just  
19 doesn't work.

20 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

21 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** But, in a situation  
22 like that where, like, the Friendship Centre is there and,  
23 you know, there's a conglomeration of people of the same  
24 background or spiritual background with a little bit of  
25 understanding, I think that's -- you know, that's a good

1 point to be in, because he used to go to the Friendship  
2 Centre and things like that.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah, and help out.

4 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah. And, he used  
5 to do things like that. And, when this happened, that  
6 didn't exist anymore.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

8 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: The Friendship  
9 Centre wasn't what it used to be when he used to help out  
10 there.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

12 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: So...

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah, and everybody  
14 commented on it, too.

15 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

16 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: When we'd come down,  
17 we'd run into some of the places that he used to help out  
18 in. Like, even his own apartment.

19 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Mm-hmm, because he  
20 had ---

21 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Everybody there he used  
22 to help. He used to give one old lady a ride for shopping  
23 on his bike.

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Yeah. Wow.

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: "Wanna go shopping?"

1           Okay, I'll take you on my bike."

2                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Yeah. Okay. So,  
3 he was really -- in his heart, he was really sort of  
4 community minded.

5                       **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

6                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** But, I guess programs,  
7 things, funding sources kind of change or whatever over the  
8 course of time?

9                       **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

10                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, this happened, he  
11 withdrew, and there just wasn't a source for community  
12 outreach, is that -- yeah?

13                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah. The  
14 Friendship Centre structure changed quite a bit, and I  
15 think looking back on it, I think that those kind of things  
16 are important to keep, and I think that something like that  
17 would have really been -- I'm not going to say it was the  
18 answer.

19                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Sure.

20                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** But, I think that  
21 would have been a really great thing because he loved the  
22 Friendship Centre because, I mean, let's face it. We're  
23 all socially different, but he got along with everyone  
24 there; right?

25                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.



1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And, that was --  
2                   that's a big struggle; right?

3                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

4                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** When you grow up a  
5                   little bit different, you know, finding that. And, he fit  
6                   in really well there.

7                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

8                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And, I just think  
9                   that something ---

10                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And, he was disabled.

11                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- like that would  
12                  have been ---

13                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Oh okay.

14                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

15                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** He had some barriers,  
16                  some challenges, then, himself. Yeah.

17                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** But, I think  
18                  something like that would have been a great -- something,  
19                  you know?

20                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, some source of  
21                  community. Yeah, I hear you there. For sure. Yeah.  
22                  Yeah.

23                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** I think that would  
24                  have been, for Chris, a good thing.

25                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** [Niece 1] was a  
2                   different situation than Chris was. She had children, so  
3                   that was a little bit harder.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right. Yeah. And,  
5                   children, were they involved with, like, Child Protection  
6                   or anything? Or, did her family kind of step in there?

7                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Because you were  
8                   going to take them for a little bit, weren't you?

9                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm. I was going to  
10                  take them for a little bit, but...

11                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

12                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** But, you just had  
13                  your heart surgery, so...

14                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Yeah. A couple of  
15                  things going on. Yeah, for sure.

16                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** But, the grandparents  
17                  are really good.

18                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

19                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** The grandmother, I  
20                  don't know. I think -- I haven't really asked her, but I  
21                  think she's a social worker on the reserve.

22                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. So, they just  
23                  would have stepped in to avoid the kids going into any sort  
24                  of care or anything like that when [Niece 1] was really  
25                  struggling with her addictions?

1 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

3 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Because they didn't  
4 -- when did they get the kids?

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Right after -- right  
6 after [Niece 1]'s...

7 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Right after [Niece  
8 1] passed.

9 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Hmm, okay.

11 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: So, during while  
12 [Niece 1] was alive, where were the kids again?

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: With [Niece 1].

14 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: They were with  
15 [Niece 1]?

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Because after -- right  
18 after [Niece 1]'s -- [Niece 1] passed, we called a meeting.  
19 Dad and I called a meeting, because we didn't want the kids  
20 spread around.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: We wanted them kept all  
23 together.

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, [C.], [Niece 1]'s

1 father, he said that he was getting on in years and he  
2 couldn't look after little kids.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

4 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And -- oh, he wanted to  
5 split them up. He said, "I'll take the oldest boy."

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: "I'll take [Grandson  
8 1]," and I said no. That's why we're having this meeting,  
9 so we can all decide on who can keep all of them together.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

11 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Because I don't want  
12 them separated.

13 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

14 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Because I think of me  
15 and my sister ---

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Of course.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: --- being separated  
18 when we were little.

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Of course. Yeah.

20 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah. It's  
21 traumatizing.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

23 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And so, in the end,  
24 [Family member 1] and [Family member 2] were the ones that  
25 stepped up and -- stepped up to the plate and ---

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

2 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: --- said that they  
3 would do it.

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Good. And, do you  
5 ever visit with the children?

6 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh yes.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Do you see them? Yeah?  
8 Oh okay.

9 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yes.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Great. They're in the  
11 same community or...?

12 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: No.

13 MS. KATE LANGHAM: No? Okay, wonderful.

14 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: We're up in Fort  
15 McMurray ---

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: --- and they're down in  
18 [City 1].

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

20 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: -[First Nation 1].

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

24 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: But, I phone them and I  
25 let them know when I'm coming to town, and she'll bring the

1 kids up and ---

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: So, we get to spend  
4 time with them.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

6 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, she lets me know  
7 how they're doing all the time, and she lets the kids text  
8 me sometimes on her phone. Sometimes they'll text for  
9 hours.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh, for sure. How old  
11 are they now, the range?

12 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: [Grandson 1] is -- what  
13 did I say, 13?

14 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

15 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: [Grandson 1] is 13;  
16 [Granddaughter 1] is 10? Yeah, I think she's 10. And,  
17 [Grandson 2] is -- I think he's eight.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

19 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Busy. Yeah.

21 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah, so.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Good.

23 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: They are so, so  
24 loveable.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh okay.

1 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh my gosh.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah?

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: They just love to  
4 cuddle and -- yeah. You'd love them if you met them.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Right on. So, you  
6 get some good cuddle time in there?

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

9 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah. So, they're the  
10 ones that I really -- that I really wanted to do all of  
11 this for.

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: At Christmastime, I  
14 made them a scrapbook of Bee, and [Niece 1], and Chris.  
15 Rolled it all up for them. I said that I would write a  
16 story. I've been procrastinating, but I do have papers  
17 galore everywhere.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Just got to pull  
19 them together.

20 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Get your administrative  
22 assistant to help.

23 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: I'll have to get you  
24 a good typewriter.

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: That doesn't even help.

1 But, yeah, I said that I would write a book for them.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Lovely.

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: So that they know who  
4 their mother and father and their grandma was.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

6 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Because all the elders  
7 are slowly passing. Their grandfather's side especially.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

9 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: It's good space that  
10 the kids are in, though. Like, when we look at how Chris  
11 and [Niece 1] were affected by what happened, we're very,  
12 very excited that they're living there.

13 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

14 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Because their  
15 grandparents that they live with right now are -- I am  
16 pretty sure she is a social worker. I can't remember what  
17 she said her actual job is, but somewhere along that line.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Something social worky.

19 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah. But, she is  
20 totally going to break the cycle in that family for them.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

22 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And, it's -- that's  
23 the one thing that everyone is really, really excited  
24 about.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.



1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Because, you know,  
2 sometimes those can get passed down and passed down. So, I  
3 think with the situation that they're in now is great. Mom  
4 gets to see them, dad gets to see them.

5                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

6                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Last time they were  
7 up, mom took them everywhere. You guys went to the movies,  
8 you went to the zoo, you went to the park.

9                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Fun. Fun.

10                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, you know, it's  
11 in a good spot for them now because they're -- I can see  
12 the cycle breaking. They were old enough to kind of see  
13 where ---

14                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

15                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- it could have  
16 gone.

17                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Sure.

18                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And, we were able to  
19 see that too, where it could go.

20                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

21                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, we're really  
22 glad that they're living a different life now. That stuff  
23 is going to be broken away from them a bit now.

24                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** I've heard you say a  
25 connection there a couple of times. So, what are -- if we

1           could spell out some of those factors, you know? What is  
2           she doing that's breaking the cycle? What are the changes  
3           there?

4                           **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Spirituality is the  
5           main thing.

6                           **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

7                           **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** The grandparents are  
8           very, very spiritual. They have their own sweat lodge.  
9           They have their own -- you know, they go to Sun Dances.  
10          The kids are getting into it. [Granddaughter 2] has already  
11          had elders come over to teach her how to sew, and how to  
12          cook, and how to -- how to do some things.

13                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Yeah.

14                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Things I don't even  
15          know how to make myself.

16                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** So, very, very connected  
17          to community and culture and spirit.

18                          **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

19                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

20                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. Yeah.

21                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

22                          **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, you're seeing how  
23          that ---

24                          **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

25                          **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah. You see the

1 other side of it really quick.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Sure.

3 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: She keeps -- they're  
4 well-educated. She keeps them in school, obviously, does  
5 all that stuff, too.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, sure.

7 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And, you know,  
8 mixing it with the culture and the background is ---

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

10 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: I think it's an  
11 important thing for them, and you can see it because --  
12 just the respect that they give and things like that;  
13 right? They're those proper little ones now, so...

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: They sound like really  
15 great kids.

16 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

17 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, you're able to  
18 fulfil like a grandmother role there for them as well.

19 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Great.

21 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: So, in going through  
22 this, for me, feels like a final step.

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

24 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: From going round, and  
25 round, and being as ---

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

2 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Growing up and -- it  
3 just feels final now.

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: That I can feel a lot  
6 better now.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Good. Is there  
8 anything that, as you're sort of reflecting here, is there  
9 anything else that you'd like to share, or anything that  
10 you feel was missed or...? Because we have time, so...

11 I think you've given us a really good sense  
12 of who Bee was, and how important she was to you.

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Give a sense of who she  
14 was?

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Well, I think you've  
16 given us a really good sense of who she was and ---

17 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Oh okay.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Her character and  
19 her spirit. She sounds like quite a wonderful person.

20 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: She was. She loved her  
23 music. She loved music. She loved dancing. She knew  
24 every song, every singer.

25 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah, I think you --

1 well, you mentioned to me earlier that, you know, you were  
2 happy with how things worked with the court; right? With  
3 the ---

4 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

5 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yes. That is one of  
6 the things that I would like to acknowledge with the  
7 police, the detectives and Victim Services.

8 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** We really lucked out  
9 with that one.

10 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yes. Everybody was so  
11 -- so amazingly good to us.

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** What did they do that was  
13 -- you know, that was helpful?

14 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** They kept us informed  
15 of everything they did. They'd phone me if they had a  
16 question about Bee. Was she like this? Was she like that?

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

18 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Or, they'd phone me,  
19 like, even do you think -- do you think that Jason Philip's  
20 parents might hide him? And, I said yes. He's their only  
21 son.

22 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

23 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** They would, and they  
24 did.

25 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** I think another big  
2                   thing that helped out too was during the process, -[Crown  
3                   prosecutor], who was the Crown, did have quite a lot of  
4                   understanding of Native families. So, that kind of really  
5                   helped out ---

6                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Sure.

7                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- in how he would  
8                   talk to us and, you know, just the conversations were a lot  
9                   easier at that point. They weren't so structured and ---

10                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

11                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- you know, it did  
12                  help. It was a huge, huge help that he knew some of the  
13                  background. He knew kind of what mom would have to do  
14                  after. He knew some medicine and things like that, that  
15                  mom would have to do after hearing certain things. Or, if  
16                  mom wanted to talk with someone specific, or if I did, then  
17                  he did have some background knowledge in that and that  
18                  was ---

19                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Sure.

20                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- a really big  
21                  help in that way.

22                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. There's some  
23                  cultural safety there.

24                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

25                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And that -- yeah. I  
2                   found that to be, like, one of the biggest things.

3                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. And then  
4                   relationship also as he took the time to develop  
5                   relationship. Is that ---

6                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

7                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, I'm kind of hearing  
8                   that all throughout, from the police detectives and that  
9                   sort of thing, is they established relationships; do I have  
10                  that right?

11                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

12                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah, okay.

13                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** When they had to go  
14                  into the house, they would tell me, "We have to go into the  
15                  house to do such-and-such. Do you want to go in and  
16                  smudge?"

17                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

18                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Or, "Do you want to go  
19                  in and pray?" Or, "Do you need to go in and do anything  
20                  before we go in?"

21                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

22                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And, a lot of times I'd  
23                  say yes.

24                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

25                  **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah. You can't go in

1           there, just barge in there.

2                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Yeah.

3                       **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Her spirit is still  
4 hanging around yet.

5                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. So, they were very  
6 respectful, then ---

7                       **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yes.

8                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** --- as well. Okay.

9                       **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

10                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** So, I think -- yeah.  
11 So, you were mentioning that -- you did say that was before  
12 and then I think the other thing that was -- yeah,  
13 everything throughout the court process, how that went, in  
14 our family's mind, it went very well.

15                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

16                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** They were very nice  
17 and everything like that.

18                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

19                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** The hard thing was  
20 afterwards, it was, you know, Chris and [Niece 1], how can  
21 we ---

22                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

23                      **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- point them  
24 somewhere? So...

25                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.



1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And, I think -- I  
2           don't think we were ever really given a lot after, was the  
3           hard thing.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

5                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Because, yeah, you  
6           didn't know -- that was what left you so in the lurch, and  
7           dad, was trying to figure out how to help them.

8                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

9                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

10                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

11                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And, that's ---

12                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** From afar, too.

13                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah. And I would  
14           just -- I would just assume that there would be something  
15           to kind of help in that sense.

16                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

17                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** With such a violent  
18           act, it would have been -- I would have assumed there would  
19           be something there to kind of support at that point. And,  
20           maybe there was and we just didn't know about it ---

21                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

22                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- or, you know ---

23                  **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Which is a ---

24                  **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah. And, that's  
25           the biggest thing, so...

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Okay. Was it  
2 the ---

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Just to get off ---

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- Edmonton Police?

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: --- of the ---

6 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Get off of the track  
8 here.

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Sure.

10 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

11 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Just something popped  
12 into my mind ---

13 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

14 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: --- that I'll say  
15 before I forget. At the memorial, at Bee's memorial, I  
16 made sure that we had counsellors galore.

17 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Ah okay.

18 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Because the bands, all  
19 three bands were -- what's the word? What's the word? You  
20 know when -- I know when my brother got killed, there was  
21 -- okay, animosity.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Ah.

23 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: That's the word.

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, okay.

25 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: There's so much

1 animosity between families. It just ripped everybody  
2 apart.

3 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah. Grief does that.  
4 Yeah.

5 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And so, for Bee's  
6 memorial, I made sure that there was counsellors galore  
7 there.

8 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Wow. Sounds like you  
9 took those two years to really plan something ---

10 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yeah.

11 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** --- spectacular there for  
12 her.

13 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I had to really think  
14 of everything.

15 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

16 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Didn't you end up  
17 inviting somebody from Edmonton Police or from -- I  
18 remember somebody being there.

19 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Oh okay.

20 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** At the memorial.

21 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Oh yeah, who was that?

22 **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Was it [Crown  
23 prosecutor] that showed up?

24 **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah. Wasn't it?

25 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, that was, like, the

1 Crown prosecutor that came?

2 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

3 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Wow. Yeah.

5 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Because mom wanted  
6 somebody there, because there was a lot of talk about how  
7 the police were treating things and stuff.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Sure.

9 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And then you invited  
10 them, because you were just, like, "Well, come down and,  
11 like, see and show yourself."

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Yeah.

13 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And, I don't know  
14 how he got there. He was there.

15 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I don't know either.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: He found his way.

17 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Wow.

19 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Yeah.

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

21 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Because it was a big  
22 thing, and it was nice, because the family got to -- he  
23 didn't really stay too long, but at least the family  
24 seen ---

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- you know, what  
2           came out of it and things like that, so...

3                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

4                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah. I forgot you  
5           invited him.

6                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I forgot too.

7                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Well, it sounds like  
8           there were quite a few people there. So, it sounds like  
9           we're kind of working our way to closing here, but I guess  
10          -- you've already provided quite a lot, but I'm wondering  
11          if you have any other recommendations for the Commission or  
12          for the Commissioners?

13                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I guess just to keep in  
14          contact with caretakers. Keep in contact with them so the  
15          caretaker can let them know what -- where help is needed.

16                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right. Yeah.

17                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** That would be one of my  
18          best solutions, I think.

19                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

20                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Is to...

21                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** And, after, you know,  
22          after all the court stuff is over, to have somebody  
23          continue to connect with the families and -- yeah?

24                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Yeah.

25                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. Yeah. And, is

1           there anything else that you would like the Commission to  
2           know about?

3                       **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I had -- I had really  
4           good service through -- what's it called now? Suicide  
5           prevention.

6                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

7                       **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** Suicide prevention  
8           phoned me every second day ---

9                       **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Wow.

10                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** --- to see how I was  
11           doing, to see how the family was doing, because there was  
12           so much trauma. There was so much -- like, [Daughter 1],  
13           [Daughter 1] was really scared. And, [Daughter 1] was very  
14           suicidal at one time.

15                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

16                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** And, [Son 1] was very  
17           suicidal. [Daughter 2] not too much, eh? [Daughter 2] can  
18           hold her own. You can hold your own.

19                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Was this a local ---

20                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** But, suicide prevention  
21           or whatever it was, they phoned me every second day ---

22                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Wow.

23                      **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** --- to see how me and  
24           the kids were doing.

25                      **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. Was this, like, a

1 local suicide prevention network, or was it sort of the  
2 Edmonton ---

3 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: It was from Edmonton.

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Wow. Which is  
5 really what's needed.

6 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Like, when a family is in  
8 crisis, is to be checking in. And, I've heard you say that  
9 in many different ways throughout, you know, in terms of  
10 sharing what did work. It was the communication, the  
11 people who were genuinely and continually checking in and  
12 communicating there. Yeah, okay.

13 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: And, the other thing  
14 was my doctors and all them, too.

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

16 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: I was hooked right up  
17 to the hospital. I didn't even have to go to the hospital  
18 for anything, really. If they seen my heart racing or  
19 something, I got a call.

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh wow. Okay. You were,  
21 like, electronically monitored there? Okay.

22 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Right.

24 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: So, they were taking

1 really good care of you, then.

2 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, really paying  
4 careful attention to your health situation.

5 MS. GLORIA SKINNER: Yeah.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

7 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: But, yeah, is that  
8 -- do we lay out some good stuff that we found worked?

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh absolutely.

10 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: Because I think we  
11 wanted to lay out both sides.

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah, you did.

13 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: There was a lot that  
14 worked well...

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And then there were some  
16 gaps there.

17 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And there was gaps,  
18 yeah.

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

20 MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER: And then that's kind  
21 of -- that's, I think, the end story that we wanted to --  
22 when we discussed it that we wanted to kind of -- we don't  
23 have a huge negative thing about us on this. We had some  
24 really great ---

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.



1                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- you know, great  
2 things that happened throughout it, some really great  
3 support.

4                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

5                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** And then, you know,  
6 other things on the side. So, I think that's the important  
7 thing to that ---

8                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yeah.

9                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** --- and I'm kind of  
10 hoping that we point out some things that worked and ---

11                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** You absolutely have  
12 pointed out some things that have worked. Absolutely.  
13 And, by spelling those things out in terms of what about  
14 those things worked, it's really, really helpful. And then  
15 pointed out some gaps as well, because there clearly are  
16 some here.

17                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Yeah.

18                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** So, I don't know, if this  
19 feels like a good place to end for today?

20                   **MR. ALEXANDER SKINNER:** Mm-hmm.

21                   **MS. GLORIA SKINNER:** I think so.

22                   **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. All right, then.  
23 It is 3:24, and that concludes our formal interview today.  
24 So, I'll just turn off the audio.

25 --- Upon adjourning 15:24

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shirley Chang, 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.



Shirley Chang

September 7, 2018