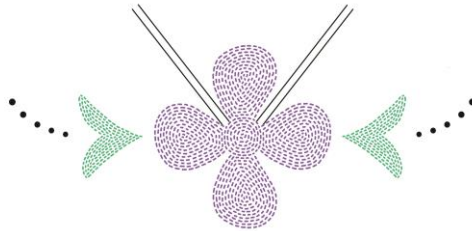


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale u  
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 Public Hearings  
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
Elmbridge Room  
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia**



**PUBLIC**

**Wednesday April 4, 2018**

**Public Volume 112  
Leonard Guno, Millie Percival, Floyd Percival,  
Cora Morven & Claude Morven,  
In relation to Rebecca Louisa Guno**

**Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson  
Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette**

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## II

### APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Non-Appearence
Government of British Columbia	Sara Pye (Representative)
Government of Canada	Donna Keats (Legal Counsel)
Heiltsuk First Nation	Non- Appearence
Northwest Indigenous Council Society	Non- Appearence
Our Place - Ray Cam Co-operative Centre	Non-Appearence
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Non-Appearence
Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective	Non-Appearence
Les Femmes Michif	Non-Appearence
Otipemisiwak/Women of the Métis Nation	

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Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette

Clerk: Bryana Bouchir

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

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LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>Witnesses: Leonard Guno, Millie Percival, Floyd Percival, Cora Morven, and Claude Morven</b>		
<b>Exhibits (Code: P01P15P0501)</b>		
1	Six-page typed text beginning with the sentence: "Becky was born May 25, 1960"	66
2	Three-page text written by Millie Percival, dated November 2016	66
3	Seven colour photographs of Rebecca Guno printed On 8.5 x 11 paper	66

1 Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 9:22

3 --- **OPENING PRAYER**

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you,  
5 Commissioner Robinson.

6 For the record, my name is Breen Ouellette  
7 and I am a lawyer with the National Inquiry. It is my very  
8 great honour to introduce the Guno, Morven, and Percival  
9 families who have travelled here from New Aiyansh, British  
10 Columbia.

11 I will ask Claude Morven to introduce each  
12 of the family members giving testimony today.

13 **MR. CLAUDE MORVEN:** Good morning. My name  
14 is Claude Morven. I was asked to be the Chairperson and  
15 introduce all family members of the Guno family.

16 On my immediate left is Leonard Guno. His  
17 sister is the one we're talking about today, our loved one  
18 that is missing.

19 Next to him is his wife Susan. And to my  
20 immediate left is my better half, Cora. And there is  
21 Millie Percival and Floyd Percival.

22 And sitting behind us is their support, Don  
23 Leeson, Morgan, and I never met the other lady til this  
24 morning, so I never even asked her her name. So -- Brenda.

25 And it is our belief that what we have to

1 say here today will help your Inquiry. Thank you.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And Claude, I asked  
3 you a silly question and you were going to make a short  
4 statement about my silly question earlier.

5 **MR. CLAUDE MORVEN:** And I believe the silly  
6 question was about the whole truth and nothing but the  
7 truth. In our culture we tell nothing but the truth so we  
8 didn't need to answer that question. Thank you.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

10 Leonard, would you please tell the  
11 Commissioner the full name of the person you have come to  
12 speak about today?

13 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** The full name is Rebecca  
14 Louisa Guno.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And would you tell us  
16 your relationship to Rebecca as well as the relationship of  
17 the other family members to Rebecca?

18 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Rebecca was the third  
19 child in our family. My brother Arthur Guno is the oldest  
20 and myself, I am the second oldest, and then there's  
21 Rebecca, and there was Victoria, then there was Douglas,  
22 and then Janice.

23 And the only ones that are surviving are  
24 Douglas, Janice, Arthur, and myself. Rebecca and Victoria,  
25 well, in my way and what -- it's been so long, it's been 36

1 years plus; in my own mind and my heart, I know where she  
2 is. She's not here on this earth. She is with our other  
3 sister Victoria. So now that's all the siblings in the  
4 family.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Has your family had an  
6 opportunity for closure or do the police still consider  
7 Rebecca to be missing?

8 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Our family has not had  
9 closure. It's hard to have closure when there is nothing  
10 that I could hold or something of hers in her last days or  
11 weeks of her life. There's nothing there for me to hold so  
12 that we can have closure.

13 That's probably one of the hardest things  
14 right now, is getting that closure and getting something  
15 that she had or just was with her in her last days of her  
16 life. And I keep saying "last days of her life" because in  
17 my mind and in my heart, I know that because of the 36  
18 years that have passed.

19 And it's hard to really talk about it. My  
20 brothers and my sister, we probably never really talked  
21 about it. We put it in the back of our mind until I guess  
22 there was a time when we'd had to start talking about it.

23 And Breen came along at the right time, it  
24 seemed, and opened the door a little for us to start  
25 talking about what needs to be done, what should be done in

1 order for us to find closure.

2 I can't remember the other part of the  
3 question.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You've said it. Thank  
5 you.

6 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Okay.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** When and where did  
8 Rebecca go missing?

9 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Rebecca, my sister was  
10 one of the Downtown Eastside -- it's a label you hear even  
11 today still. And you imagine back then in the eighties,  
12 the early eighties, and that was where she lived. And it  
13 was in 1982 so it's been 36 years.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And how old was  
15 Rebecca when she went missing?

16 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** I believe she was 22  
17 years old.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what was Rebecca's  
19 life like growing up in your family?

20 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Rebecca was always a very  
21 happy person, you know? She brought life to a  
22 conversation. She brought life into a room when she walked  
23 into a room. She had a smile that was infectious and I'm  
24 happy to say that one of my daughters has a big smile like  
25 her. And it always brings, you know, good memories because



1 she was a very independent person.

2 We had all went to residential school, the  
3 three oldest -- Arthur, myself, and Rebecca. And then  
4 that's when you really saw her independence and she grew.  
5 And I think that when she turned a certain age she decided  
6 that she was going to make a life of her own  
7 (indiscernible). So she was very independent and strong.

8 If I'm missing anything?

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I have some more  
10 questions. I know that tragedy struck your family when  
11 Rebecca was young. Could you speak about the loss of your  
12 mother?

13 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Yes. I believe that was  
14 -- it was in '66, '65, '64. See, I can't -- we lost our  
15 mother in what we call Old Aiyansh. It's our older  
16 community that was along the Nass River. She drowned. And  
17 that's when our -- I'm not too sure who it was that decided  
18 that the kids should be sent off to residential school.  
19 And Arthur, Becky, and myself were all sent there into St.  
20 Michael's in Alert Bay in 1966, I believe it was. That was  
21 our first year there.

22 Rebecca didn't spend as much time there as I  
23 did. I was there for -- right til 1972. Like I said, she  
24 was independent so, you know, it was hard to keep her in  
25 one place because she was independent.

1                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so if I've done  
2 the math in my head right, she was about four years old at  
3 the time that she lost -- that you all lost your mother?

4                   **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Yes.

5                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So do you know if she  
6 attended high school in Vancouver?

7                   **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Yes, she did attend high  
8 school because I was going to high school in Vancouver also  
9 myself and I was -- I can't remember the exact year but I  
10 was -- I believe at the time I was with Laura and Olie.  
11 Laura and Olie are -- Laura is Cora's sister, oldest  
12 sister, and that's who I stayed with going to high school  
13 in Coquitlam.

14                   And I can't remember exactly who it was that  
15 had mentioned that she was in Vancouver. And we did meet  
16 up in Coquitlam just for -- I can't even remember if it was  
17 an hour or something, just talking and catching up on  
18 things that we'd missed out on each other.

19                   I think that's ---

20                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know, did  
21 Rebecca stay in Vancouver after high school?

22                   **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Yes, she did. Like I  
23 said, she was very independent and a strong-willed person,  
24 so she did stay in Vancouver and we never saw much of her  
25 after, you know, going to high school. And it seemed like

1 she wanted her own life.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And we can see that  
3 the family has brought pictures today. Could you tell us  
4 about these pictures that you've brought?

5 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Actually, Millie probably  
6 could say more about the pictures because they were given  
7 to her a week and a half ago or two weeks ago. And these  
8 are pictures I've never, ever seen and it's the first time  
9 I've seen pictures of her.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Millie? I know it's  
11 difficult for you to see the photos from that angle. Would  
12 it be possible to -- oh, they're on the screen?

13 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** Yeah.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Perfect. Thank you.

15 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** All these pictures  
16 were given to us by the RCMP. That would have been about  
17 two weeks ago, a week and a half or two weeks ago. And  
18 they were taken by an acquaintance of Becky's before she  
19 disappeared. And the lady that took them said that she  
20 wasn't really a friend so much as an acquaintance. She  
21 just knew her.

22 One of the things that I noticed about the  
23 pictures is that she's wearing different clothes in every  
24 picture, so they were taken over -- just looking at them,  
25 they might have been different visits or something like

1 that.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And when you look at  
3 these photos, who do you see in these photos? How do you  
4 describe seeing these photos just a week ago?

5 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** Just take your time.  
6 You're okay.

7 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** She was really -- she  
8 was just full of life. She was our -- in our culture, she  
9 was my sister and she was also my best friend, and that's -  
10 - she was just really full of life. That's all I can say  
11 right now.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.  
13 Millie, you were going to read something.  
14 Do you need a moment or do you want to read it now? Okay.  
15 Thank you.

16 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** It was a little ---

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Sorry, I'm just going  
18 to introduce you.

19 Millie has submitted as evidence a written  
20 narrative about Rebecca and her disappearance.

21 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** I wrote this for  
22 International Women's Day about maybe six or seven years  
23 ago. And we were honouring the missing and murdered women  
24 at our little gathering, and there was about six of us, six  
25 or seven of us in our workplace. I'll just read it.

1                   Becky was born May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1960. She is not  
2 simply a name on a newspaper clipping. She is my dear  
3 friend, and in our culture, she's my sister. The pain and  
4 guilt that I feel when I say her name never goes away.

5                   One of my first memories of her was when we  
6 were sitting on a bench overlooking the river in Old  
7 Aiyansh. It was a brilliantly sunny day and I must have  
8 been about six and she would have been about five. And I  
9 remember feeling alone in the world, like I didn't really  
10 matter to anyone. In her bubbly tone she asked me what I  
11 was doing and she reminded me that we are cousins. Her  
12 smile and constant chattering made me forget the desperate  
13 loneliness which was consuming me.

14                  She stood behind me stroking my hair and  
15 asked me if I was waiting for someone. And before I had a  
16 chance to answer, she told me that she was in trouble and  
17 was waiting for her auntie not to be mad at her any more.

18                  Then she was going back inside and she  
19 pointed to a house nearby. She sat down beside me and she  
20 said she'd better leave my hair alone, even though she knew  
21 how to fix hair. And just when I thought about asking her  
22 what she did wrong, she informed me that she had cut her  
23 sister's hair and it looked nice, but her auntie was very  
24 mad at her.

25                  She quickly added that Auntie might not be

1 mad now and grabbed my hand and pulled me along and invited  
2 me to go inside with her. Sensing my fear, she reassured  
3 me that her auntie was probably my auntie too. Besides,  
4 she was really nice and maybe it will be hard for her to  
5 stay mad when she sees "beautiful you" is what she said.

6 She burst into the house in much the same  
7 way that she burst into my thoughts, yelling for Auntie to  
8 guess who came to visit.

9 Auntie was washing clothes on a scrub board  
10 and she wiped her hands on a towel and stood directly in  
11 front of Becky and said, "I'm still mad at you."

12 To which Becky responded by throwing her  
13 arms around Auntie's waist and proclaimed that she already  
14 said she was sorry. And she smiled up at her saying, "I  
15 know you love me, Auntie. You can't stay mad forever."

16 Auntie rubbed Becky's head and shoulders,  
17 smiling, and in a quiet loving voice said, "Rebecca."

18 Then she turned to me and excitedly  
19 exclaimed, "Lady Esta, where did you come from?"

20 Becky looked at me and said, "See, I told  
21 you she's nice."

22 When Becky's mom died, Auntie took the two  
23 youngest girls and Becky and her two older brothers  
24 remained with their dad who worked as a logger. Becky and  
25 the boys were sent to residential school and when their dad

1           paid for their trip home to visit, Becky spent a lot of  
2           time with us. She'd share stories of Lytton and later  
3           Coquitlam and the people she knew there.

4                        She said she didn't like it there but being  
5           a little girl so full of life, she never saw any reason to  
6           feel sorry for herself. She was happy to have family to  
7           come home to.

8                        She loved it when Mom teased her about how  
9           she pronounced Lytton and Coquitlam. She'd hug Mom and  
10          say, "I just know you love me, Auntie."

11                      Once in a while, Becky would kind of mention  
12          in a small, faraway voice that people aren't very nice.  
13          And then she'd happily announce in her bubbly way, "But I'm  
14          here now."

15                      It seemed so long between visits home, but  
16          she would always burst in the door and hold my hand and  
17          say, "We're best friends, remember."

18                      When I was a teenager I went through a lot  
19          of depression and by that time, Becky was home. And she  
20          came to the new high school. I'd confide in her about my  
21          worries and she would quietly listen and then she would hug  
22          me and confirm that life is hard to understand. "But  
23          that's why we have each other," she'd say in her lively  
24          way.

25                      She proudly played softball and never let me

1 miss a practice. She loved that my mom was one of the  
2 coaches.

3 Becky was well into her first pregnancy when  
4 she finally told me that she was pregnant. When I asked  
5 her why she didn't tell me, she playfully pushed me and  
6 said, "I just did."

7 I argued my point and she happily argued  
8 hers, saying that I think too hard about things. That's  
9 why I'm so sad all the time. And I couldn't argue past  
10 that.

11 Not long after her baby was born, my husband  
12 and I -- at the time, he was still my boyfriend -- we were  
13 at Becky's dad's house. Becky brought her baby over to me  
14 and put him in my arms and smiled. And after a long  
15 silence, she said, "He needs two good parents," and matter  
16 of factly asked if we would consider taking him. She said  
17 she knew we were going to be together forever and that we  
18 had what it takes to be good parents for him.

19 For the first time ever, I seen her cry.  
20 She cried her heart out. She said that she and her dad  
21 talked it over many times and she knew the baby deserved  
22 more than what she could offer. She said we didn't have to  
23 answer right away. And then she joked that we could let  
24 her know in a couple of minutes. I was just turning 17 and  
25 I desperately wanted to take him, but I was afraid.



1                   A few weeks later, her dad sent her and the  
2                   baby to visit her cousin in the Lower Mainland. Becky  
3                   returned alone a couple of months later. She came to see  
4                   me and cried really hard and quickly collected herself and  
5                   told me that she decided to let them adopt him. She said  
6                   they were really nice and they love him, and she was happy  
7                   that he was going to grow up with a mom and a dad. She  
8                   cried many times about it.

9                   After we got married, Floyd and I remained  
10                  in a close friendship with Becky. She fell in love with my  
11                  cousin from my dad's family and they moved to Terrace and  
12                  had a baby boy. They were so proud of him. She always  
13                  seemed to be marching around wearing her happiness. Then  
14                  crib death took him away and that death really devastated  
15                  them. They moved to Vancouver.

16                 On one of her visits home she told me that  
17                 they were having a difficult time financially, mostly  
18                 because of the choices they made. She hinted that  
19                 substance misuse was creeping into their lives and she  
20                 wasn't sure if their relationship could withstand  
21                 everything. I later learned that they were no longer  
22                 together and Becky remained in Vancouver.

23                 I'd go and visit my Uncle Jerry, Becky's  
24                 dad, about every three weeks or so to see if he'd heard  
25                 from her. They talked on the phone regularly and he'd

1 update me. He had a respiratory condition and needed to  
2 cart an oxygen tank wherever he went. Now and then he  
3 would make his way up the hill to our house and we'd chat  
4 about how much we missed her and whatever they talked about  
5 on the phone.

6 He had got a settlement of some sort and he  
7 was excited to let me know that he was paying her and her  
8 third son's way home for a visit. One day I was washing  
9 the floor and spotted her right outside my window, and I  
10 ran out to greet her.

11 She introduced me to her son and during the  
12 course of our conversation, she said, "I'm a prostitute,  
13 Millie. I can't really explain why but it's a living. We  
14 do what we have to do. Life's not that bad. I have my  
15 baby and that's all that matters to me. His dad is really  
16 good to us but I'm going to keep doing what I do. His dad  
17 knows that and we're happy to be parents to our baby.

18 "I'm going to go back in a couple of days  
19 and Daddy said he'll give me some money and it will be good  
20 for the baby. Money doesn't last but his dad and I will  
21 make sure the baby is looked after all the time. We're  
22 happy and that's all that matters. I'm not ashamed of  
23 myself."

24 And she asked, "Are you ashamed of me?"

25 And I told her I could never be ashamed of

1 her.

2 She said, "I knew it." And then she hugged  
3 me and told me not to worry about her, even though it might  
4 be the last time we will ever see one another. I couldn't  
5 find the words to answer her.

6 Two weeks later, my uncle came to up the  
7 trail carting his oxygen tank, and he knocked on our door.  
8 And he told me Becky was missing. We talked a long time.  
9 He cried. He said he was going to go and look for her.  
10 I'd never seen him worry or cry.

11 He said he was going to need a place for the  
12 baby and wanted to know if we could take him. He told me  
13 to think it over and we would talk more before he leaves  
14 for Vancouver.

15 He said, "I chose you because you're the  
16 baby's mother and you live right close by, so the boy could  
17 see Grandfather all the time."

18 I didn't fully understand what he meant when  
19 he said I was the baby's mother. I did not see him again  
20 until he got back. He came to see us and he told me about  
21 how big Vancouver is and how he cried, walking the streets  
22 day after day, not knowing where he was going or who to  
23 talk to. He told me that he wanted to go back and keep  
24 looking but he was so tired, and Vancouver was just  
25 hopelessly big, like she just got swallowed up.

1                   I pictured him pulling his oxygen tank along  
2                   the streets. He said that people didn't even care about  
3                   him and maybe they thought he was just a bum who didn't  
4                   care about anything.

5                   He asked me if we were getting ready to take  
6                   the boy and I said yes. He said that Becky's cousin  
7                   offered to keep the baby and it was better for the brothers  
8                   to be together. He apologized. We agreed that the boys  
9                   were in the best place.

10                  I don't know how many times I thought about  
11                  her and felt just absolutely sick and empty. When the news  
12                  of the Pickton farm came out, it felt like I was being  
13                  slammed in the chest by grief and fear over and over. I've  
14                  never sat and talked with her brothers about it, but I  
15                  really wanted to. I didn't know how they would feel about  
16                  me bringing it up and asking questions that I wanted to  
17                  ask.

18                  I'd look at her boys and I'd see so much of  
19                  her in them, and I wanted so badly to hug them and tell  
20                  them how I adored their mom.

21                  To my knowledge, hers was not among the DNA  
22                  found at the farm and I have this horrible feeling that it  
23                  was missed. It's been over 30 years since she disappeared  
24                  and when I read or hear something about the Pickton case,  
25                  the pain grips me and I wish with my whole being that I

1           could just know where she is and tell her that she was a  
2           good momma and that she did the right thing for her boys.

3                        I wish I could be there for her, just once,  
4           the way she was for me my whole life, just once to hold her  
5           hand and tell her that I will never forget that we are best  
6           friends, maybe to lessen the pain of any horror that she  
7           might have encountered.

8                        But we don't know, and if it has been that  
9           painful for me, I can't imagine the pain her family felt,  
10          her boys. Sometimes guilt that I haven't been supportive  
11          enough creeps up on me. I know that I'm glad I didn't have  
12          to see Uncle Jerry, her dad, suffer through this.

13                       The headline from the Vancouver Sun dated  
14          August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, read: "A society that simply doesn't care  
15          enough. An habitué of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, a  
16          sometimes prostitute and a long-time drug abuser, Rebecca  
17          Guno disappeared in June 1983."

18                       Becky disappeared weeks after I saw her.  
19          She still had the optimistic, grateful, sparkling spirit  
20          which could not be doused by anything.

21                       She did not look strung out. I didn't see  
22          the long-time drug abuser. However, I don't doubt that she  
23          drank. The word "habitué" can mean that she frequented a  
24          place which brought her pleasure. I know that she  
25          habitually made a conscious effort to receive whatever

1 situation she found herself in with dignity and a deep  
2 understanding that God would not let her get into a  
3 situation that was beyond her forbearance.

4 She was named the first potential victim on  
5 the official list of the women that went missing from the  
6 Downtown Eastside. When the Commission toured the  
7 province, they were compassionate within the limits of  
8 their mandate. Mr. Oppal thanked us for the information we  
9 provided and we never knew what they would do with it.

10 I wonder if the purpose of that Commission  
11 is to ensure that Becky will now be more than a faceless  
12 statistic? Will meaningful measures be taken to ensure  
13 that Becky will now be more than -- I'm reading it over  
14 again. Will meaningful measures be taken to help us  
15 reinstate the parenting and social skills so that we do not  
16 stand by paralyzed in pain, watching our families succumb  
17 to this vicious cycle?

18 Our spirit has been crippled beyond  
19 recognition. The spiritual ways of our ancestors are an  
20 indispensable part of restoring justice in the communities.  
21 When we see another getting caught in the vortex while  
22 trying to re-establish our lives, we must hold hands. We  
23 can't let this pain continue to keep us in isolation of one  
24 another.

25 A tiny part of my sister's legacy is that we

1 have one another and that's what matters most. My auntie  
2 who took Becky's baby sisters must have thought about the  
3 days living in the longhouse where my uncle's children  
4 would never have been removed from their familiar  
5 environment or separated. They would have simply remained  
6 in the longhouse with their other mothers and all of us.

7 Residential school continues to send  
8 shockwaves which sometimes paralyze us in the fear that we  
9 are not good enough, that we aren't worthy, or that we are  
10 incapable of knowing how to help. When we feel the fear  
11 that our children are being pulled from us, remember that  
12 we have each other and reach out.

13 When my mother wasn't drinking she was  
14 barrelling full speed ahead, showing us how to be community  
15 builders. Because of her, I know that phrases like, "what  
16 goes around comes around" must always be used in a good  
17 way, and that we must do things in caring ways. My mother,  
18 our mother, would be so relieved that I'm finally up to bat  
19 for the culture and I'm all proud because I'm a little more  
20 like Becky, looking for what's right with life instead of  
21 what's wrong.

22 **MR. OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Millie, for  
23 honouring us with one of the most beautiful things I've  
24 ever heard.

25 My next question is for Floyd. Floyd, was

1 Rebecca's father Jeremiah your friend?

2 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** I'm sorry, I didn't  
3 hear.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I said, was Jeremiah  
5 your friend?

6 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** Yes, and I've known  
7 Jeremiah for years and years, starting from when I was  
8 about five years old, when we were living in Old Aiyansh.  
9 Jeremiah was a -- he used to refurbish riverboats and I  
10 used to hang around him helping him out, and he used to  
11 tell me stories all the time when I was helping him. And  
12 then after the flood when we moved to New Aiyansh, he lived  
13 directly below our house. And we used to visit him often  
14 and he used to come visit us.

15 But employment took me away from the  
16 community. I used to have Vancouver here as my home base  
17 during the downtimes in the logging industry. And that is  
18 when I first met Becky again. She was living with a friend  
19 of mine. Him and I were living in and out of logging  
20 camps.

21 His name was Randy Peel and I never really  
22 knew if they were living together for quite a while, but he  
23 used to just tell me he was going to go see someone. And I  
24 didn't know who.

25 But the one time, I think it was around the



1 mid seventies, and we were having supper in one of the  
2 hotels in Vancouver here, they said they were on their way  
3 to a party and they wanted to know if I was going to join  
4 them. But I told them I wasn't really up to going to  
5 parties at anybody's places around Vancouver area.

6 They said they were on their way to the pig  
7 farm and I said that only made it more positive for me that  
8 I didn't want to go to a party there, that I wasn't up to  
9 going out to any farm then. But I never knew what the pig  
10 farm was until about 20 years later.

11 But Randy came back after they stepped out  
12 of the building and told me that if I changed my mind that  
13 I should just tell the cab driver I wanted to go the pig  
14 farm and they would know where to bring me. And I said  
15 okay. And he left again.

16 Then Rebecca came back in and she said she  
17 just wanted to tell me that not to eat the bacon in the  
18 morning. And again, I didn't understand the meaning of  
19 that statement until about 20 years later when the news hit  
20 the media about the pig farm and what was happening there.

21 So that was when I really started getting  
22 involved, trying to find Becky in the late seventies and  
23 early eighties before Jerry passed.

24 And he used to walk up to our place when I  
25 was working behind the house to tell me about Becky before

1 he would go in to talk to Millie. And his first trip down,  
2 he didn't know exactly where to go. And I asked him how he  
3 was financially. So I gave him a bunch of money to help  
4 him out. I just took it out of my pocket. I didn't bother  
5 counting how much I gave him, but that's what we do in our  
6 culture to help someone out in that situation.

7 But when he came back he said he didn't find  
8 anything. And I told him I was on my way back down again  
9 to logging camp and then I said I would look around and ask  
10 around again. So he told me the places he looked. He said  
11 he wasn't too sure about some of the names because  
12 Vancouver wasn't a familiar place for him.

13 So I spent my days off from logging camps  
14 asking around about Becky. And Randy, my friend, quit  
15 logging then. He started spending full time looking for  
16 Becky. But I didn't know that was the reason why he quit  
17 coming to camp with me. But when I finally moved back to  
18 our community and my wife and I got married, I think around  
19 '78, when the visits from Jerry increased because he was  
20 very, very concerned about his daughter.

21 And I was starting to settle down then so  
22 the only way I could help was to follow whatever was in the  
23 media. And I didn't like what I was hearing about the pig  
24 farm. And a lot of people joked about what was happening  
25 there and I didn't like the jokes. I let the people know

1           that I didn't like the way they were talking about it  
2           because there wasn't just one of our sisters there, there  
3           was quite a few from the Nass Valley that went missing.  
4           And they were all family to us.

5                           But that's all I'll say for now.

6                           **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Thank you,  
7           Floyd.

8                           Cora?

9                           **MS. CORA MORVEN:** Hi.

10                          **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Hi. Did you work for  
11           the RCMP in New Aiyansh when Rebecca went missing?

12                          **MS. CORA MORVEN:** Yes.

13                          **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did you report  
14           Rebecca missing at your RCMP detachment?

15                          **MS. CORA MORVEN:** Yes.

16                          **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if the  
17           RCMP contacted the Vancouver Police Department about  
18           Rebecca?

19                          **MS. CORA MORVEN:** No.

20                          **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You don't know?

21                          **MS. CORA MORVEN:** No.

22                          **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay.

23                          **MS. CORA MORVEN:** Not til just recently I  
24           found out.

25                          **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And so you know

1           that they did or they did not?

2                           Claude, could you assist Cora on that  
3           question?

4                           **MR. CLAUDE MORVEN:** I believe that there was  
5           a very -- or it's uncertainty on whether or not the RCMP  
6           actually did contact the Vancouver City Police. It's  
7           uncertain. Even to this day, we're not really sure whether  
8           they did or not. But if they do have files, then it just  
9           started recently.

10                          **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. What happened  
11           to Rebecca's son Orion (ph) after Rebecca went missing?

12                          **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** About a month or so or  
13           probably a few weeks after Rebecca went missing, Jeremiah,  
14           Leonard's dad, who all our children affectionately call  
15           Grandfather, found out about it. So he said there was no  
16           way that the Ministry of Children and Families would ever  
17           take any of his children because in our culture, that's not  
18           the way it is.

19                          So he got a plane ticket, flew down here,  
20           found Orion, brought him home. At that time, Cora, the  
21           kids, and I were on our holidays for four weeks, and this  
22           would have been in August of that year that he brought him  
23           home.

24                          And Millie alluded to Orion being with his  
25           brother who was Marvin. They were given -- he was given to

1 Olie and Laura at the time.

2 When we got back from holidays, we found out  
3 that they had him, and we were going to -- we were getting  
4 all ready to prepare for a baby shower, I guess, to welcome  
5 the new child into the family, when my sister-in-law and  
6 brother-in-law said that they could not keep him.

7 So Jeremiah turned around and said, "Well,  
8 he's yours now." He gave him to us. Culturally, he was  
9 ours.

10 So we went through a lot in taking him, not  
11 with the way he was but the Ministry of Children and  
12 Families and seven or eight social workers came to our  
13 family. And I think we filled one filing cabinet up.

14 We were trying to adopt him but they had all  
15 these different investigations year in and year out. By  
16 the time our son Orion was able to change his name from  
17 Sams to Morven, he was turning 16. That's 15 and a half  
18 years of research done by the Ministry of Children and  
19 Families, which was a waste of funds, you know?

20 And I fail to understand why they do things  
21 like that when in our culture, it's normal, like Millie  
22 says, that we're all family. We have someplace to put  
23 people. We have family to look after them.

24 But in this day and age, everybody else has  
25 to go through Ministry and government lays down the laws

1 and unfortunately, we were dragged into that as well to  
2 live that kind of lifestyle when we don't normally do that.

3 Our children mean a lot to us. They're our  
4 future. And the sad thing about it is that 99 percent of  
5 our children that leave and do come back have no sense of  
6 culture. Our language is disappearing. Like, many Native  
7 nations, their language is gone. Ours is on the verge of  
8 that because we don't speak it on a daily basis, because if  
9 you speak to a person and you speak to them in our  
10 language, even if they are Nisga'a they don't understand  
11 you. They look at you in a funny way and saying, "Well,  
12 what are you saying? What are you doing?"

13 You know, and that's one of the things that  
14 we try to encourage, is Nisga'as have Nisga'a children  
15 families. And we're trying to get them to, whenever they  
16 apprehend a child, to make sure that they go to a Nisga'a  
17 family, preferably a family of their own rather than  
18 somebody else in some other community, because being  
19 community based means a lot of difference -- makes a lot of  
20 difference in life. You learn your culture, you learn the  
21 ways of your family, and you learn who you're related, how  
22 you're related. All this means so much. If you don't  
23 learn that, you're going to be walking the wrong direction  
24 and getting hurt later, you know, and that's one of the  
25 things.

1                   And that's where we had problems with the  
2                   Ministry. They didn't understand that. And for the life  
3                   of me, even today, I still don't understand why they put us  
4                   and our son through all that just to say yes in the end.

5                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** During that entire  
6                   time, nearly 16 years of waiting and being reviewed, did  
7                   the Ministry provide financial support for you to care for  
8                   Orion?

9                   **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** No, they didn't. They  
10                  told us that because we're family, it's different if you're  
11                  not family. You'll get financial support if you're not  
12                  family. But if you're family, they say, "Well, you can't  
13                  get financial support to raise your own child, so to speak,  
14                  your own family member."

15                  But it was fine by us. It didn't really  
16                  matter. But the child's needs are still the same. It  
17                  doesn't matter whether they're family or not. So we just  
18                  went along with that and just didn't bother. We knew in  
19                  our hearts that he was ours and that's the way we raised  
20                  him, to be ours, and that's the way he talked to his mother  
21                  and I, that we're Mom and Dad.

22                  And one of the most loving things he did  
23                  every day, we were -- on weekends we'd be both sleeping in  
24                  and then this big 6'2" kid comes and flops himself on the  
25                  bed in between us, something that you have to feel. He

1 always talked about how much he loved us because of what we  
2 gave to him. He had love in his heart for us.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And when you would  
4 travel to Vancouver, you and Cora, would you look for  
5 Rebecca?

6 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** I guess it probably was  
7 a quest of ours to every chance we got, we knew -- I had  
8 friends Downtown Eastside and the church that I went to is  
9 on the Downtown Eastside, so whenever I'd come down to  
10 Vancouver, even if I was by myself, I walked from Granville  
11 Street all the way Downtown Eastside and talked to just  
12 about everybody on the streets because we knew who she was,  
13 knew I could describe her to a T. And I'd look for her all  
14 the way up til I got to the church.

15 And one of the things that they had in  
16 church every time I went was say a prayer for everyone.  
17 And when they're saying that prayer, you mention the name  
18 of the person you want to say a prayer for. And that's  
19 something that I did every day when I was in Vancouver.

20 Sometimes I'd be here for five days, you  
21 know, and during negotiations for our Treaty I was down  
22 here quite a bit. So I spent a lot of time down there when  
23 we weren't in meetings, walking, because I know quite a bit  
24 of Vancouver.

25 I was down here my first time ever to



1 Vancouver was in 1961, you know, and it was small then.  
2 That was when they still had two-way streets, not just one-  
3 way streets every other street -- every other block.

4 And then I came back down in 1967 and I did  
5 the same things. I looked all over the place for  
6 everybody, people I knew. And that carried on right when I  
7 became an elected member of our village, that whenever I  
8 was sent down here, my mission was to go see our people who  
9 moved from our community to Vancouver, to speak to them.  
10 And that is one of the things we always did, was look for  
11 our own people.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

13 Leonard, were you or anyone else in your  
14 family ever asked to produce DNA to assist in finding  
15 Rebecca?

16 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Initially, not right off  
17 the get go. It wasn't until the Pickton farm hit the news.  
18 And I can't remember the exact year. It was in early 2000  
19 or 2001, somewhere around there that the RCMP were  
20 travelling around to all the families that were on the  
21 missing women's list and it was then that my brothers and  
22 myself, we gave DNA samples, and my sister Janice also.

23 We never really -- to me, at the time, I  
24 couldn't remember whether what they exactly said, but just  
25 from what hit the news and then coming along and asking for

1           our DNA samples, it's easy to put one and one together;  
2           this is the reason why they were asking for DNA samples.  
3           So to me, that was the main reason I thought they had  
4           required DNA samples from the families of the women that  
5           were on the list.

6                           **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And when they came  
7           asking for your DNA did they do anything to prepare you?  
8           Did they provide any counselling, any support before,  
9           during, or after?

10                           **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** No, there was no such  
11           support. It was, like, they had called ahead, said they  
12           were going to -- they wanted DNA samples. They come, take  
13           the samples, and that was it. There was no support or  
14           guidance for family members to deal with the situation at  
15           hand, you know? Like I said, my brothers and I, we're very  
16           quiet. We don't -- we barely talk and we're -- and I'm  
17           surprised I'm here talking in front of you, because it's  
18           hard to do.

19                           But like I said, thank you to Breen. He  
20           brought out something in me that I'd be able to sit here  
21           and tell a little story about our sister who had a good  
22           life, you know, even though it was short. To me, you know,  
23           she had three kids who are all not here any more also, but  
24           two grandkids, two granddaughters.

25                           So you know, there needs to be still some

1 more support. You know, the granddaughters, they need  
2 some. I believe they do. They need some sort of support  
3 because I know the sons needed support and they didn't get  
4 any from any provincial or federal.

5 And I believe that is why they're not here  
6 also. You know, the question of living, growing up, you  
7 know, where is my mother? To me, in my own mind, that's  
8 the way I see it. They grew up in good families, but there  
9 was still that one little unanswered question -- where was  
10 my mother, you know because they were both given up, the  
11 two boys, Marvin who was the oldest, and then Orion. They  
12 were both given up shortly after they were born.

13 Now, as far as support for any of the family  
14 members, my family members, there was none, none  
15 whatsoever. And I'm thankful now that we have support  
16 sitting behind us here.

17 And to me, it's hard to let go and show your  
18 emotions, especially in public. It's something that  
19 myself, I try hard not to do. But in situations like this,  
20 when I'm talking about one of my sisters, you know, it's  
21 hard. And thankfully, I do have support. But back then,  
22 in the day, back in the day, I call it, no support, you  
23 know? If there was support, who knows, maybe the sons  
24 would be still here, you know?

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** When the RCMP asked

1           for your DNA, did they recommend that you speak to a lawyer  
2           before giving them your DNA?

3                       **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** No, they didn't.

4                       **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did the RCMP explain  
5           to you whether your DNA would be restricted only for the  
6           purpose of identifying Rebecca or if it might be used for  
7           other purposes, even used against you?

8                       **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** To my recollection, I  
9           don't think there was any real explanation. But like I  
10          said earlier, just myself, in my own mind, I knew, you  
11          know, putting one and one together, the reason why they  
12          were -- the initial reason why they were taking the DNA  
13          samples. But there was no explanation and no -- and  
14          whether it would be or could be used against me. So you  
15          know.

16                      **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so to be clear, it  
17          was not made known to you whether or not they would keep  
18          the DNA samples if they did discover Rebecca at a later  
19          date? They didn't make clear to you that if they found  
20          Rebecca, they would then destroy your DNA samples?

21                      **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** No, they didn't make that  
22          clear either, no.

23                      **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Millie, I understand  
24          from our previous conversations that you had difficulty  
25          seeking memorial funding for Rebecca through the Crime

1 Victim Assistance Program. Would you share with the  
2 Commissioner what happened?

3 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** Yeah. At our family  
4 meeting, we decided to submit an application for to  
5 memorialize our sister and we decided that Leonard would  
6 sign the document. I needed to get a police file number  
7 and after a few days of no success obtaining a file number,  
8 I called the Crime Victim Assistance Program to see where I  
9 might obtain a file number.

10 And the person I spoke with asked me why I  
11 needed a file number and I explained that I was filling out  
12 a CVAP application, a Crime Victim Assistance Program  
13 application. And she asked for what and I explained that  
14 we wanted to -- we were thinking about a memorial bench  
15 with a plaque in our community for my sister -- for our  
16 sister. And she asked a few more questions and then  
17 concluded that the application would not qualify so not to  
18 bother sending it.

19 Twice during the course of our discussion  
20 the worker told me that no crime had been committed and  
21 that in one of those times, she said, "For all we know, she  
22 may not want to be found." She was referring to Becky.

23 I cried quite a bit and I didn't let her  
24 know that I was crying though. I explained that I was good  
25 with her response and that I would continue to try to

1           obtain a file number and then submit the application so  
2           they could respond however they normally respond to  
3           applications. That way we can have a response in hand and  
4           possibly apply to other agencies, possibly including local  
5           government.

6                           The worker was very upset and abruptly told  
7           me that no crime had been committed; therefore, we do not  
8           qualify and they are not there to create a paper trail for  
9           us, and to go ahead and apply to other agencies. Then she  
10          added that she thought applying to our local government  
11          would be very good. And her tone remained abrupt. And I  
12          made a mental note to myself to remain curious.

13                          It was clear throughout our discussion -- we  
14          talked over an hour and it was clear to me that they would  
15          not respond to our application. And I asked her how they  
16          would handle the application if I sent it, to which she  
17          sharply replied that they would not consider it. And I  
18          asked if the application would go in the garbage.

19                          I was crying hard and I couldn't speak when  
20          she asked the question, so she curtly asked me, "Hello, are  
21          you still there? Hello?"

22                          And I eventually told her I was still there  
23          and that I was crying. And still speaking sharply, she  
24          said that it sounded like I needed to talk to someone and  
25          that she would get another -- a support worker to call me.

1                   And that was Frida Enns, and she said that  
2                   Frida could also explain why we don't qualify for funding.  
3                   And she said that she will talk with Frida to give an  
4                   overview of our discussion and get her to call me.

5                   And I explained that I just called to get  
6                   some direction on where I might obtain a file number,  
7                   adding that I realize this is way more than just being  
8                   about my sister. It is about the experience of the  
9                   families of the missing and murdered women, and this isn't  
10                  about our application. We would fundraise if we need to.

11                  And she said something to the effect that  
12                  she supported fundraising and she mentioned something about  
13                  events for families of murdered and missing women and asked  
14                  if I attended. And she was referring to the event in  
15                  Prince George. And I explained that I was grateful for the  
16                  opportunity to learn everything I had from our discussion  
17                  and I thanked her for her time. And I hung up.

18                  Our family had hoped that we could apply for  
19                  funding to coordinate an event to coincide with another  
20                  event which took place at the end of November 2016 to  
21                  commemorate Becky's mother, who also went missing on the  
22                  river many years ago. And we are, in effect, taking  
23                  responsibility for our own healing.

24                  This discussion resulted in me putting off  
25                  sending the application, I guess due to shame, knowing that

1 First Nations people are often identified as wanting things  
2 handed to them and done for them.

3 A great leader -- I'm not reading this whole  
4 thing -- but a great leader in our nation once spoke to me  
5 and he said, "No matter what, do no harm." And I have  
6 adopted that and that is why I chose not to raise my voice  
7 and say anything disrespectful or in a disrespectful manner  
8 to the worker.

9 And but I would like some assurance that all  
10 workers are trained and accountable to doing no further  
11 harm or receive trauma-informed practices as well as  
12 understanding that people who are applying to CVAP have  
13 already been victimized.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Millie has submitted  
15 to the Commission as evidence a complaint letter to the  
16 Crime Victim Assistance Program.

17 Millie, were you reading from portions of  
18 that letter just now?

19 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** Yes, I was, and I  
20 haven't submitted the letter yet. As I said, it really  
21 affected me deeply to feel that I was just there looking  
22 for a handout. And I think it goes to support that  
23 although Becky went missing more than 30 years ago, we're  
24 still being re-victimized so many times over by various --  
25 by the media and by situations such as this.



1                   Like I said, I accepted that. I accepted  
2                   that "no" was the answer and that we could fundraise or  
3                   whatever, but not to be told in that way, you know?

4                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And Leonard, what do  
5                   you hope will happen as a result of your testimony today?

6                   **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** There's a lot of things  
7                   that I hope will happen but I will start to -- I will tell  
8                   a little story of myself and my situation, where I work.  
9                   As I am a Fishery Officer, a Federal Fishery Officer, and  
10                  I've been one for 11 years now, and because I work in the  
11                  enforcement field, I know a little bit now of enforcement  
12                  and working with the police.

13                  Just yesterday I got a -- I was sitting down  
14                  with two RCMP members and they were going over our sister's  
15                  file. And from what you heard so far, it was in 1982 that  
16                  she went missing. And for the record, on the file itself,  
17                  it said 1983. So there was a one-year gap from when it was  
18                  reported to when there was an actual paper trail on the  
19                  file.

20                  And as a Fishery Officer and doing an  
21                  investigation, one year is a lot of time already when  
22                  you're going to start an investigation. So that sends  
23                  alarm bells to me automatically saying, what happened to  
24                  the one year from when it was first reported and then  
25                  finally put down on paper and recorded, you know? And this

1 was with the Vancouver City Police.

2 And to add to this, my wife and I lived in  
3 Vancouver in the late eighties, early nineties, and I had a  
4 run in with the Vancouver City Police. And I ended up  
5 going to court and I had a Native Court Worker at the time.  
6 And I was being charged for assaulting a police officer.

7 And when we got to court, my Native Court  
8 Worker -- actually, it was before -- she saw who the judge  
9 was and she said, "Oh, no. This is not good for you."

10 And I asked why. And plain and simple, he  
11 didn't like First Nations. And this was a judge.

12 So in that file, I ended up with a -- it was  
13 called a conditional discharge and I was fined \$20. And to  
14 me, it was the judge's way of covering himself by giving me  
15 the \$20 fine because I know in my mind, that wasn't me that  
16 supposedly assaulted him. It was somebody else that was  
17 taller than me. The description was 5'8" and I'm only  
18 5'5".

19 So putting that together with my sister's  
20 investigation, that leaves a -- to me, it leaves -- I'm  
21 going to say it the way I feel -- a bad taste in my mouth  
22 for the Vancouver City Police, even though I'm an  
23 enforcement officer myself. The respect is not there.  
24 They're going to have to earn that back from me.

25 It's something that will never go away until

1 I see some things change within that organization. There's  
2 too much of it going on and it still goes on to this day.  
3 When it will stop, I don't know. Somebody has to be  
4 accountable for actions taken. And it's something that I  
5 hope to see changed, is attitudes towards First Nations.  
6 Women -- it seems that is where there's a big lack of  
7 respect for First Nations women.

8 And then you get labelled because you lived  
9 in the Downtown Eastside. There's another label that is  
10 there all the time. The media loves to take a story and  
11 change it around. They just need to change one word and it  
12 sounds so different than the actual story.

13 I know that there are a lot of other things.  
14 I'm trying to collect myself and get across a point of the  
15 way I feel and what I'd like to see. I can't right now.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Would you like to  
17 submit something for Commissioner Robinson to review after  
18 the hearing when you've had more time to collect your  
19 thoughts? Would you like to put something in writing?

20 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** I have something here.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You have something?  
22 Okay. Just take a moment.

23 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Sorry, Breen. Here are  
24 some recommendations that were written down. Counselling  
25 in place for children, immediately and long term.

1 Compensation for family, especially for children, should be  
2 kept in trust for grandchildren. There was an after care  
3 for ceremony to bring families together to honour their  
4 sisters or their loved ones. Headstone or memorials to be  
5 held when families are ready. And that's what I've got.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

7 Claude, what do you hope will happen as a  
8 result of your testimony today?

9 **MR. CLAUDE MORVEN:** Well, I feel the same as  
10 my cousin Leonard, you know, that we are labelled,  
11 especially the women. If you look -- and probably all your  
12 people should look at the Native culture. In our culture,  
13 to be able to carry on and do the things that we do, the  
14 women mean a very lot, a lot in our culture. They're the  
15 story. They hold the stories of your family. They can  
16 tell you the history of your family, where you come from  
17 and back as far as you can go; it's told by different  
18 people.

19 And one of the things that I really want to  
20 see happen is hopefully one day that the Commission just  
21 isn't here just to hear stories and that's the end of it,  
22 but actually point the finger like I would to the people  
23 who are to blame for not carrying on the proper  
24 investigations.

25 Those laws have to be changed. If you look

1 at it in history, laws have always been built that way so  
2 that it stifles the growth of a Native person, especially  
3 Native women or women in general. Now, they have to be  
4 changed in order to allow growth and allow us to get to the  
5 bottom of things a lot quicker.

6 Thirty (30) years is -- 30-something odd  
7 years is a long time to carry this grief. And do we get  
8 closure after we're done? The answer is still no because  
9 we still don't know where it is and what's going to happen.

10 You hear our stories. You can tell the  
11 federal government, provincial government, but that's all  
12 you could do. There's no way of changing anything to  
13 ensure that we are getting something out of it and probably  
14 getting a chance to say our final goodbyes, and you know,  
15 be assured that our sister is at peace and at rest. Those  
16 type of things, we don't have whereas others have it.

17 You know, ever since she went missing, we  
18 have wondered about it and wondered about it, how we're  
19 going to deal with this because Leonard's father was not  
20 only my uncle through marriage but also a very good friend  
21 of mine. And I'll tell you a story about what happened to  
22 him at the airport in Terrace that ultimately led to his  
23 death.

24 He was sitting in the airport waiting for a  
25 flight to Vancouver to do a checkup because he had lung

1 problems. And he was flying Air Canada. And this guy sits  
2 next to him. This is in the days when you were allowed to  
3 smoke. He just simply said to this person sitting next to  
4 him that, "You shouldn't be smoking next to me. It will be  
5 just like a bomb going off if this oxygen tank blows up."

6 All the people heard, the attendants heard  
7 on the plane, was "bomb". I was just going to leave the  
8 airport because I brought him there and they told me to  
9 come and get him and take him off the plane.

10 So some friends of ours got together and  
11 they got him on the next flight the next morning which at  
12 that time was too late because rather than bringing him to  
13 the hospital, he wanted to stay in a hotel. So I didn't  
14 bring him to the hospital like I should have, as he ran out  
15 of oxygen and eventually his lungs deteriorated some more.  
16 And shortly after that he passed.

17 And all because of a simple sentence that he  
18 was worried he might get blown up by the person smoking  
19 next to him. And he was thrown off the plane. He already  
20 paid his flight, paid it out of his own pocket.

21 You know, and I was really amazed that they  
22 did something like that to him. I tried really hard. I  
23 talked to the Air Canada people for over an hour, trying to  
24 convince them he was only worried about everybody else,  
25 plus his own life because of what that person was doing

1 next to him. He didn't say he was carrying a bomb.

2 You know, and there were many things that he  
3 taught me while I was growing up and a single person.  
4 Little did I know that I was going to marry his niece a few  
5 years later, you know? And over the years that we've  
6 learned things, we learned who to respect. The law, I have  
7 no respect for because of the way it's written.

8 I've had a lot of run ins with the RCMP but  
9 thankfully, they were all good ones and not bad ones,  
10 because I threatened them. I told them I was going to tell  
11 my niece to look after them because that's who she works  
12 for.

13 But if you look at the law and you look at  
14 how fast the investigations happen, Millie's brother  
15 brought up a really -- he was probably being sarcastic in  
16 saying it but it was sort of funny in a way -- when he  
17 said, "You look at the Downtown Eastside, or Native women  
18 in particular, how fast the investigations happen; a snail  
19 crawling across the room would finish his trip before the  
20 investigation starts."

21 But there is this person who owned all these  
22 dogs up in Whistler and they were dying. The investigation  
23 started the very next day. See, dogs were important than  
24 even the women, the animals. Now, why can't they give us  
25 an answer?

1                   What are the steps they are taking to ensure  
2                   that the family gets the word that they are looking into it  
3                   and not just saying something to appease you, but rather,  
4                   really doing it? And I hope one of these days that the  
5                   women of our country get treated better than they are  
6                   treated today. Thank you.

7                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Millie, what do you  
8                   hope will happen as a result of your testimony today?

9                   **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** I made some notes and  
10                  because of the emotional effects of just being here, I  
11                  would prefer just to read the notes. I'll just read them.

12                  People say that we're experiencing social  
13                  issues because we had no role models. We did have role  
14                  models who, for the most part, taught our parents and  
15                  grandparents an abusive lifestyle which was reinforced  
16                  daily for years at a time at the residential schools.

17                  I would like to share a quote.

18                  "I feel certain that this school will be a  
19                  great success and that it will be a chief  
20                  means of civilizing the Indian with no  
21                  danger of their following the awful  
22                  existence that many of them ignorantly now  
23                  live now."

24                  And that was from a principal's report at  
25                  Indian residential school. I took this from the Truth and



1 Reconciliation website.

2 This mentality has nearly destroyed our  
3 self-confidence. Many of us feel like there is something  
4 wrong or uncorrectable with our being. The same amount of  
5 time and energy and resources needs to be put in place to  
6 reinstate our sense of self-worth as well as pride in our  
7 language and culture. Simultaneously, the government needs  
8 to facilitate the promotion of respect for Aboriginal  
9 people, much the same way that resources are pumped into  
10 things like ParticipACTION for physical fitness and smoking  
11 cessation.

12 We need to deal with intergenerational  
13 trauma by implementing intergenerational solutions. Being  
14 mindful of that, the stripping of livelihood was carried  
15 out universally. Likewise, the resources for reinstatement  
16 need to encompass holistic multi-faceted approaches.

17 When you only heal one group of people, they  
18 go back into the community and are immersed into the trauma  
19 that has affected the whole community. They have little to  
20 no support. Then their family seeks healing and see their  
21 loved ones relapsing from the lack of support. But they  
22 don't know why their loved one is relapsing. So begins  
23 another cycle of hopelessness and shame.

24 Reconciliation is an action. With lack of  
25 legislative controls, we are vulnerable for exploitation as

1 we work at reinstating our wellness and safety and  
2 security. People study the history of the First Nations  
3 people. They reconstitute our historical practices in  
4 health, spirituality, wellness, and community safety  
5 infrastructure, and sell it back to us. All the things we  
6 are that we heal, that we seek to heal, are basic human  
7 rights and we're still trying to attain them.

8 We don't know what it feels like to wake up  
9 each day, looking forward to enjoying the wonderment of  
10 discovery and freedom from safety for the lives of our  
11 children and grandchildren.

12 The residential school settlements take  
13 place. They have taken place or not and our people still  
14 don't have the useful reinstatement of our community  
15 structure to effectively halt this revolving door so that  
16 we can begin processing the grief and loss which continues  
17 to grip us.

18 It will be good for this Inquiry to  
19 incorporate organizations which support building safety  
20 such as local community governments, the Canadian Women's  
21 Foundation, Native Women's Association of Canada, the  
22 Community Coordination for Women's Safety, and Ending  
23 Violence Association of B.C. in order to make a meaningful  
24 difference to women's safety.

25 Those organizations need to have a

1 designated seat for them by this Inquiry to have the  
2 opportunity to be a part of building the final report so  
3 that they can support the construction of safety for  
4 Aboriginal women with follow-up funding to specifically  
5 address the safety of Aboriginal women using holistic  
6 structure.

7 The information being provided is key, that  
8 information being provided by families is key to the  
9 development and service delivery which requires resources  
10 to match the magnitude and scope of the issues which  
11 continue to impede the safety of Aboriginal women.

12 Further, the government needs to sanction  
13 these organizations in a very public way. This Inquiry  
14 needs to amount to much more than volumes of books to be  
15 unveiled only as a token to safety.

16 The Inquiry will not be effective if their  
17 report is going to be used as a token or accomplishment, I  
18 guess, trophy.

19 Piecemeal funding brings piecemeal safety.  
20 Years of experiencing abuse has spread the survival tactic  
21 of lateral violence. We need to relearn lateral kindness,  
22 child attachment, and brain development. It's evident in  
23 the history of our culture that we knew and practiced these  
24 things. Language and culture reinstatement are an integral  
25 component and we also need major campaigns to influence

1 Canadian citizens to think safety when they think of women.

2 We need to replace harmful terms such as  
3 "prostitution" to reflect the exploitation that is taking  
4 place. And this promotion for change needs to be put  
5 forward properly, like, just really endorsed by the  
6 government. Targeted funding and trauma informed  
7 understanding for non-Aboriginal people will facilitate a  
8 balanced understanding that these things are being returned  
9 to us because they were taken from us. Reinforcement of  
10 these practices needs to be daily for years at a time, the  
11 same way that they were taken from us.

12 These are a small snapshot of what's going  
13 on to take -- what it's going to take to increase safety  
14 for Aboriginal women and all women will reap the benefits.

15 My sister belonged to -- she belongs to  
16 families who embrace her as much more than how she has been  
17 portrayed by the media. The media has been allowed to  
18 inflict shame on us as though we didn't love Becky.

19 Like all survivors of intergenerational  
20 trauma, my sister wanted to belong. She wanted to be  
21 wanted.

22 Article V in the Universal Declaration of  
23 Human Rights refers to the right to be free from degrading  
24 treatment. The media's right to freedom of speech appears  
25 to override our right not to be degraded, and furthermore,

1 what they say freezes us in shame and guilt and fear.

2 Millions of dollars were put into  
3 documenting and legislating rights which seem more like  
4 friendly suggestions when you are at the receiving end of  
5 campaigns to sensationalize the risky lifestyles that our  
6 sister led, our sisters, as though they weren't being  
7 exploited.

8 We cannot begin to keep our children safe if  
9 we don't educate communities about the realities of  
10 exploitation.

11 It's the actions that someone else took that  
12 is perplexing, not our family's actions and not our  
13 sister's lie. Victim blaming must stop.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Millie, what do you  
15 ask Canadians to do after they've heard all the testimony  
16 of the families and survivors?

17 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** To know that our goals  
18 in life as Aboriginal people and Aboriginal women are like  
19 any other women. As a child, as children, we had dreams.  
20 We were asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"  
21 And nobody responded that they wanted to be an alcoholic or  
22 that they wanted to be addicted to drugs or be exploited.

23 And I really believe that if the government  
24 can do things like run these huge campaigns -- and they are  
25 effective -- about participACTION and smoking cessation,

1           because people do talk about it. They talk with one  
2           another and see how they're doing with their routine, their  
3           exercise routine or whatever it is or how they're doing  
4           with not smoking and adopting healthy lifestyles because of  
5           the government's efforts -- then I think the same kind of  
6           efforts can be put into respecting Aboriginal people,  
7           Aboriginal women, and Aboriginal people in total, you know?

8                         Like, people don't know who I am as a person  
9           and they have no -- even after this today, nobody really  
10          has any idea of who we really are here.

11                        And I think I'm kind of -- I don't have that  
12          -- it's very difficult just thinking about our sister's --  
13          where she ended up, you know? We don't really face that  
14          until today. I mean, how many, like, more than 34 years  
15          later, it's hard not to be rattled by all of that.

16                        And I came here with all these clear ideas  
17          of what I -- how I think we need to be respected and that  
18          respect needs to be backed up by the government because  
19          that's how we got into this situation in the first place,  
20          to be disrespected by the statements that were made about  
21          us, not just that one statement that I read but many, many  
22          statements. And they were allowed to be heard by the  
23          government.

24                        That needs to be addressed, turned around so  
25          that they can actually promote, not just hope that it

1 happens but promote what our people have, the values that  
2 we have and recognize that like what I said, were people  
3 are adopting, they're looking in, they're studying the ways  
4 of our people, how we used to be, how holistic it was or  
5 seamless.

6 Everything was seamless. Church wasn't the  
7 only place that you go to get spirituality and school  
8 wasn't the only place that you went to get education and  
9 the hospital wasn't -- you know, you don't just go there  
10 when you need health care. It was all seamless services  
11 and people are noticing the value in that and then they  
12 study it and study it and then they sell it back to us, you  
13 know.

14 **COMMISSIONER ROBINSON:** They call it wrap-  
15 around care.

16 **MS. MILLIE PERCIVAL:** Yeah. And so I think  
17 I can carry on for a long time. I'll just stop there.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** If you are ready to  
19 stop, thank you, Millie.

20 Leonard, what would you ask Canadians to do  
21 after listening to all the testimony of the National  
22 Inquiry?

23 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** What I would like to see  
24 is people take the time to do their own investigating too.  
25 You know, ask their own questions in their own

1 neighbourhoods, in their own towns, you know, little  
2 questions, because to me, my biggest -- the biggest picture  
3 for me is the racism. I've done my own things and  
4 listened, watched. You know, you go onto social media,  
5 it's easy to find things.

6 And one article I read was that racism is  
7 learned, so that tells me something. It starts somewhere  
8 in the house, you know? It's something that needs to be  
9 addressed at the family level just like the way we are as  
10 First Nations. We deal with sitting at the table at dinner  
11 time. That's when we do all our talking. And it's where  
12 we get things accomplished, during a meal.

13 So to me, it was racism against my sister  
14 and all the other sisters that not only lived on the  
15 Downtown Eastside but anywhere in our -- in the country of  
16 Canada and the United States, you know? It's something  
17 that needs to be addressed at the family level.

18 As I said earlier, I do work for the federal  
19 government and I do see it there, you know? I see it  
20 happen in my own work environment, amongst my own co-  
21 workers. These are little things that I haven't addressed  
22 myself yet, but it's something that does need to be talked  
23 about more.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

25 And Claude, what are your final thoughts?



1           Sorry?

2                           **MR. CLAUDE MORVEN:** I was looking at Breen  
3           and I moved my lips and he said, "What did you say?" I  
4           haven't said anything yet.

5                           In Millie's statement and as well as in  
6           Leonard's statement, there are things that are very true in  
7           our culture, being holistic and learning everything at  
8           home, and living in one place as a family unit means a lot.

9                           Also, the learned aspects of beating on  
10          women and using and abusing them, that is something that's  
11          very systemic, I guess, because it comes from residential  
12          schools. If you look at all -- it goes back as far as my  
13          parents. I learned that from my father. If your wife  
14          don't listen, beat her. That's what he did to my mother.  
15          And he learned that from residential school. Like,  
16          whenever they didn't listen, they got beat. Whenever the  
17          girls didn't listen, they got beat, you know? And this is  
18          something that grew and grew and grew.

19                          I finally stopped because I used to be a  
20          very abusive person. I stopped because I said, "Why would  
21          I do that to somebody I loved and somebody I married? Got  
22          to be something wrong here." So I stopped. That day, some  
23          30 years ago, I quit drinking as well. I never had to go  
24          to a healing centre to do that. I found it within myself.  
25          Very few people can do that.

1                   But the point is, we still have to say that  
2                   to unlearn something, it's going to be a big procedure to  
3                   try to do that. And I think just one little dropping a  
4                   word here and there would make a difference in our culture.

5                   Leonard brought up a very interesting point.  
6                   Something that I learned as a very young child is that your  
7                   parents never speak to you in a public place, never try to  
8                   tell you anything in a public place. They'll take you and  
9                   take you home and they still, even then, they wouldn't say  
10                  anything to you. But as soon as we sat down for dinner,  
11                  then the words come out.

12                  Our mother always told us that the words of  
13                  wisdom that we get in our life is taken in as we digest our  
14                  food. We don't have enough time to think about anything  
15                  else or when they're speaking to us, you subconsciously  
16                  learn.

17                  For many years everybody said, "You never  
18                  listen to your mother." And today, many years after she  
19                  passed, I can still tell you all the words she ever said to  
20                  me in my life because somewhere deep in the back of my  
21                  mind, that we were taught this.

22                  And I believe that if we start somewhere,  
23                  just open the door a little bit so that people will start  
24                  having an understanding of why Native cultures are the way  
25                  they are and why we don't treat our women the way they are

1 treated elsewhere, you know?

2 I went to the garage to get my car fixed one  
3 day and this elderly-looking gentleman walked in, two  
4 canes, swearing around about how hard his life was. Mind  
5 you, he was a White man.

6 And he said, "Just wait til you get to my  
7 age. Then you'll feel all the aches and pains. I've been  
8 logging for 20 years," he said.

9 I said, "How old are you?"

10 He said, "Sixty-three (63)."

11 I said, "Damn, I missed that on my  
12 calendar," I said. "I'm 73."

13 He took both his canes, put them under his  
14 arms, and he walked out the door. He looked at me and  
15 thought I was younger than him.

16 I said, "Maybe 20 years from now I'll be  
17 still here talking the same way because age is all in the  
18 mind."

19 But I really believe in my heart that  
20 there's got to be a way for us to change what's happening  
21 to our people, especially the women. We can't just let it  
22 keep on going the way it is and we can't be labelled all  
23 our lives.

24 I was telling the group last night that when  
25 the wife was going to university in Lethbridge, I put in

1 applications all over Lethbridge for a job. First line,  
2 "What's your name?"

3 Second line, "What nationality are you?"

4 I didn't know that had anything to do with  
5 the job. They never looked at my resumé, that I only had  
6 two jobs in my whole life. But the second line was, I put  
7 down, "I'm Native," so I was never called back, which is  
8 really funny because, you know, at that moment, I almost  
9 became a racist person because they said, "Well, that's  
10 what all the Blackfeet Indians do around here do. On  
11 payday they go, get paid, they go, they never come back."

12 At that point, I almost said, "Well, I'm not  
13 Blackfeet." And I thought about it and then I said, "Okay.  
14 Did you read any part of my resumé?"

15 If a person can work 22-odd years on one  
16 job, never been sick, never missed a day -- the only time I  
17 never worked was when I was on my holidays -- 23 years,  
18 they never even looked at that.

19 See, that's a part of labelling, and that's  
20 what we have to get rid of. Stop labelling our people.  
21 Stop labelling our women. There's a lot of very brilliant  
22 young minds. They may be Downtown Eastside, but they're  
23 brighter than most of us. And I believe if we look deeply  
24 enough, we'll find a solution. Thank you.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

1 I'll now ask the Commissioner if she has any  
2 questions for this family.

3 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Hi. I do have  
4 some questions. I first want to thank you all so much for  
5 sharing with me and with everybody today.

6 I want to acknowledge how difficult that  
7 must be and also how difficult that last 35 years must have  
8 been. And I want to acknowledge Rebecca first and foremost  
9 and her boys.

10 Someone described it as to try to understand  
11 it, it's lose your purpose for breathing and now try to  
12 keep breathing, recently, and that struck me. And I can  
13 imagine that that's how it must have been for you, as  
14 relatives, for her dad, and all of her community, and those  
15 that love her.

16 I wanted to ask some questions. You've  
17 covered so much on the impacts of racism, really. And as I  
18 hear about Rebecca's life, as early as four years old,  
19 government-sanctioned racism was impacting her life, and  
20 even before then with her parents.

21 And then the labelling, I wanted to ask if  
22 her boys were exposed to the media coverage? That one  
23 headline that you shared with us, Millie, did her boys see  
24 that? Were they exposed to that?

25 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** To what?

1                   **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** To the media  
2 coverage, the way Rebecca was described.

3                   **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** I am not sure whether  
4 Marvin was but I know Orion was still a fairly young age,  
5 so he wasn't. We tried not to let him see things like  
6 that. We just explained to him where he came from, who is  
7 true family is, and but he's ours and we love him. But he  
8 wasn't -- in our house, we never exposed him to that. But  
9 I don't know about Marvin because he lived a different  
10 household.

11                   **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Claude, you  
12 spoke about being involved in the negotiations for the  
13 Treaty, and I'm wondering if you would like to talk about  
14 how that may have -- the signing of the Treaty and the  
15 implementation and those agreements, has that resulted in  
16 changes over the last -- we're talking what, 20-some-odd  
17 years now -- to your community and your Nation's ability to  
18 address some of the laws and the challenges that you had  
19 talked about?

20                   **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** In regards to?

21                   **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Just being  
22 able to have more control to promote culture, language, and  
23 self-determination as a Nation.

24                   **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** Well, I don't really  
25 know whether that has changed anything or not because to

1 us, it doesn't matter what the outside world is doing. Our  
2 Nation still does their cultural thing to the best of their  
3 ability.

4 The issue is that like all other Nations,  
5 it's sort of fading into the Twilight Zone because there  
6 aren't too many elders who really understood and understand  
7 the culture and can pass it on, because in order to pass it  
8 on, you have to be able to understand what they're saying  
9 to you because they only speak in our language. And things  
10 like that happen all the time. It just doesn't happen just  
11 in our communities but everywhere.

12 And I probably was one of the lucky ones  
13 because I was brought up that way, through culture. I have  
14 a high name in our family but being cultural, I can't put  
15 the name Chief in front of it because that's self-  
16 promotion. As a cultural person, you don't do that.  
17 Someone else must acknowledge you as such, but not  
18 yourself. And that's one of the things that is getting  
19 lost.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yeah.

21 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** But I don't really know  
22 whether or not it will be changed or it would change.

23 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I think that  
24 covers the questions I have. No, I do, just to clarify.  
25 So Orion was in your care? You had him but they wouldn't -

1 - but the investigation went on, like, the investigation to  
2 see if you could adopt him went on for 15 and a half years?

3 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** Yes, I think we still  
4 have a filing cabinet full in Terrace. Seven different  
5 social workers.

6 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yeah.

7 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** And they all started  
8 right from the first file. Every time they came to visit,  
9 the file was bigger and bigger. But it took forever.

10 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yeah.

11 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** Whereas if I was  
12 Caucasian here in this file, we would have got him within a  
13 month. But they kept on coming back and kept on asking the  
14 same questions over and over and over again. And one of  
15 the questions that they kept on asking was -- they asked my  
16 children, our children, "Are you guys fine with having  
17 another brother and he's going to be adopted by your  
18 parents?"

19 I remember the very first day we talked  
20 about it before the Ministry got involved. Our kids were  
21 just overjoyed. And they kept on wondering why it takes so  
22 long, why it took so long. They kept on saying, "What part  
23 of yes don't those people understand? We want him to be a  
24 part of us."

25 But it rolled on and on and on, year in,



1 year out. And sometimes we'd forget about it and all of a  
2 sudden there's a knock on the door. "We're coming to do a  
3 family study."

4 "For what?"

5 "For your adoption application."

6 I said, "Oh, I thought that was over and  
7 done with."

8 "No, it isn't. We still got to do more."

9 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yeah. Did  
10 that impact your son? I can imagine that that would make a  
11 young person feel or question their stability or --  
12 especially to have government officials come and say, "Oh,  
13 no, you're not quite theirs yet," every few years.

14 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** It did in certain ways,  
15 that you know, every once in a while he'd fly off the  
16 handle and say just, "I don't belong to you guys. You guys  
17 don't want me," and that sort of -- those sort of things  
18 would fly out of his mouth, just at the heat of the moment  
19 and when he was mad at us or he thought he was mad at us.  
20 But he wasn't mad at us. He was mad at the world.

21 And we'd say to him, "Come on, son. We love  
22 you. It's not our fault the Ministry is taking this long  
23 with this. We've had you since you were a baby and we're  
24 not going to stop loving you just because the Ministry  
25 didn't say that you're ours yet. Our love doesn't change

1 for you."

2 But it hurt him in certain ways. I know  
3 that it did, the way he reacted when we'd try to talk to  
4 him. You can tell he was hurt. And he was a very good  
5 kid.

6 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And according  
7 to your laws, he was already yours.

8 **MR. FLOYD PERCIVAL:** Yes. According to our  
9 laws, the day his grandfather handed him over, he was ours,  
10 no questions asked. And that's the way we brought him up.

11 And that's one thing about having culture in  
12 your family, culture in your Nation. I think we could get  
13 rid of a lot of this need for Ministries to step in to look  
14 after our children when we got our own ways to do that, you  
15 know? We've done it for years and we shouldn't have to  
16 depend on the Ministry to do that for us.

17 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Leonard, you  
18 talked about laws designed to stifle that dynamic that  
19 Claude just shared where the laws around adoption,  
20 provincial laws, the Ministry's laws; is that an example?

21 **MR. LEONARD GUNO:** Yes, that's a perfect  
22 example of certain laws that slow First Nations down in  
23 their own growth. The prime example is our cultural  
24 adoption. Those happen, just could happen just like when  
25 Orion was given to my cousin there, you know? If we could

1           practise those, you wouldn't have those problems with the  
2           Ministry and Child and Family Services.

3                        But it's a fine edge that we're going to  
4           walk, one we're going to try to change a system that is so  
5           used of doing what it does and having the problems it does.

6                        And there is no -- I'm trying to look for a  
7           good word that would hit the nail on the head. There is no  
8           recourse for actions that are done by government officials  
9           who have made mistakes.

10                      And you see it all the time. I mean, you  
11           could turn on the news and you'll see the problems with  
12           Ministry of Child and Family Services. You could count one  
13           every day if you wanted to, and those are continual  
14           problems that you see. And it's the laws and the  
15           regulations that bind them. They not only bind them, but  
16           they hide them too. So yeah, that was a perfect example.

17                      **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you, and  
18           you actually expanded on some questions I had about your  
19           recommendations about accountability and that. So thank  
20           you for that.

21                      Before we end, I want to acknowledge a  
22           concern you raised, that it's a concern I have too, about  
23           what happens next, action or a book, right?

24                      And I want to share with you that that's  
25           something I think about every day. Process is really

1 important, but action at the end of this Inquiry is  
2 incredibly important. And as a Commissioner, my role is to  
3 fulfil this mandate and the action will be up to  
4 governments and Nations and communities.

5 And I think about that all the time. This  
6 can't be words in a book on a shelf that the next Inquiry  
7 is going to look back on, say, "Oh, see, they knew. See,  
8 RCAP, they knew. See, TRC, those questions and answers  
9 were there."

10 In our interim report we talk about that.  
11 So many recommendations that have come before now that have  
12 not been acted on. So that is something that weighs on me  
13 and the rest of my colleagues and our team. We want action  
14 as well.

15 And I want to thank you for the  
16 recommendations that you've provided, all of which are  
17 anchored in action and change, change in how we think,  
18 change in how we relate, change in how we work.

19 And I want to end by sharing with you that  
20 concern is something that I share. It can't be a trophy.  
21 The trophy will be what our children and grandchildren and  
22 great-grandchildren's lives are. That's the gift that I  
23 want to see.

24 Before we conclude, I want to share with you  
25 or extend to you a gift from the Inquiry to honour your

1 sister, to honour Rebecca and to honour and acknowledge  
2 your time here today.

3 We have packets of seeds but we also have,  
4 wrapped in red cloth, eagle feathers that we've been  
5 directed -- and I say "directed" because I feel like I'm,  
6 like, a -- I'm handing it from one person to another. I'm  
7 like, the vehicle.

8 When we had our hearing in Smithers, the  
9 matriarchs in Haida Gwaii directed us. This came to them,  
10 that they wanted eagle feathers to be gifted to everyone  
11 that came and shared their truth, their experience, their  
12 wisdom, and knowledge.

13 And I don't need to explain to you the  
14 importance of the eagle feather and why, but it's something  
15 that we've carried from community to community that we've  
16 been to and the feathers started in Haida Gwaii and now  
17 they come from all over. And conservation officers that  
18 come across a fallen eagle present them to our team and  
19 they prepare them with intention to give to you in keeping  
20 with the intention that the matriarchs instructed us with.

21 So I want to thank you again and I'm going  
22 to put the microphone down and can you help me present the  
23 feathers?

24 I often -- well, I'm going to put this down  
25 and I'll come and talk to you directly.

1 --- Presentation of gifts

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I have no further  
3 questions. I would ask that you adjourn at your pleasure.

4 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I'll adjourn  
5 this hearing. All those supports and friends who are here  
6 with this wonderful family, come, give love. And I thank  
7 you again.

8 When are you back in here? What time? What  
9 time is it now?

10 So we'll adjourn for 15 minutes and come  
11 back at -- we'll have an update on the schedule in 15  
12 minutes, so at about 12 o'clock.

13 Thank you.

14 **EXHIBITS (Code: P01P15P0501)**

15 --- **EXHIBIT 1:** Six-page typed text beginning with the  
16 sentence: "Becky was born May 25, 1960"

17

18 --- **EXHIBIT 2:** Three-page text written by Millie  
19 Percival, dated November 2016

20 --- **EXHIBIT 3:** Seven colour photographs of Rebecca  
21 Guno printed On 8.5 x 11 paper

--- Upon adjourning at 11:45

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Karen Noganosh, a certified transcriber, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an accurate transcription to the best of my skill and ability, and I so swear.



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KAREN NOGANOSH, TRANSCRIPTIONIST  
INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC

April 11, 2018