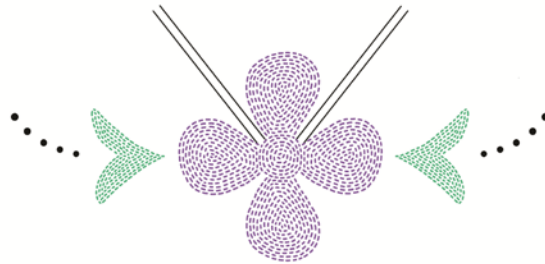


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process  
Part 1 Statement Gathering  
Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
Metro Vancouver (Richmond)  
British Columbia**



**PUBLIC**

**Thursday April 5th, 2018**

**Statement - Volume 344  
“Woman D”**

**Statement gathered by Frank Hope**

Verbatim Words West

## II

### ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names be made anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. The order for anonymity was made June 25, 2019.

### NOTE

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

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Richmond, B.C.  
April 5, 2018

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**MR. HOPE:** My name is Frank Hope, statement gatherer. Today is Thursday April the 5th, 2018. We're at the Sheraton at -- in Richmond, B.C. The time is 9:40 a.m. And your name is?

**MS. WOMAN D.:** [Woman D.].

**MR. HOPE:** And in the room, we also have a support for [Woman D.] on - [Woman D.], her mother.

**MS. WOMAN C.:** [Woman C.]. My name is [Woman C.].

**MR. HOPE:** Thank you. Okay so we'll begin. [Woman C.], so what brings you in today and what would you like the commissioners to know and any recommendations that you may have also?

**MS. WOMAN D.:** I want to share my story with them because it's -- I think it's the story of a majority of First Nations people all over the world because of -- because of the inter-generational effects of residential school. And they, by the sounds of it, want to hear from us why -- why all these women are missing and have been murdered.

And I think it has to do with the fact that there hasn't -- there's been healing done with people -- with residential school, but not enough.

You know, like there's still -- there's still so many broken and lost and I think that if they hear our stories, they'll have an understanding of -- of what, you know, what our people experienced in their lives. Because -- because our grandparents and our parents were stolen and they were abused in many forms and -- and had their childhood stolen from them. And because they were raised in that way, you know, like if they didn't grow up in a loving, caring, safe environment by people that loved them, by people that wanted the best for them, by people that accepted them then how could they do that for anybody else? How could they create that for themselves? They stole their -- not just their childhood, but the ability to -- to be a parent.

And I just feel like I don't like the whole process of how they -- yeah, they've apologized, but there's always something in the small print. They put our survivors through hell again with

1 that process when they were -- when they had to  
2 prove that they went to residential school and  
3 they had to prove that -- that all this horrific  
4 stuff was happening to them. That they were  
5 neglected, that they were starved, that they were  
6 beaten, that they were raped. You know that they  
7 witnessed other children being raped and being  
8 murdered.

9 And then continuously on a daily basis being  
10 told that there's something wrong with them  
11 because they're First Nations. Because they have  
12 different colour skin. Because they speak a  
13 different language. Because -- because we have  
14 different beliefs. You know we all believed in  
15 the same God, but it's so hard to put into words.

16 But, like I -- I want the truth to be heard.  
17 And I want it to be accepted as the truth. I  
18 don't want nothing in small print, you know,  
19 anymore. I want them to take ownership for what  
20 they did to generations of our people. Cause  
21 even though my grandparents went, and my dad  
22 went, I was affected. And their childhood was  
23 stolen from them and so my childhood was stolen  
24 from me. And I want them to see that. I want  
25 them to honestly and truthfully see that with  
26 wholeheartedly and accept it. That that's what  
27 they did, that's what they created and that they  
28 need to be a big part of fixing it. They can't  
29 back away, they can't say it's been long enough,  
30 you should be over it, because everybody heals  
31 differently. There should be no question or  
32 doubt or any funds running out to have the  
33 healing continue with our people.

34 They wonder why our people struggled with  
35 education and it was because those schools were  
36 the first schools and those were the first  
37 teachers that our people met. And that got  
38 passed on, passed on, passed on, passed on,  
39 passed on, you know?

40 Like I feel like today, our schools need to  
41 be blessed. I feel like because that memory,  
42 even though it's not the residential schools, I  
43 feel like somehow that memory lives in the  
44 schools. I feel like it affects our children and  
45 it affects the -- the way you know things are  
46 taught in the school. I think that if we did  
47 some, you know, we blessed the grounds and --

1 that we could cleanse that building and have a  
2 new -- new -- new start, new memories of school.  
3 Because I even, I have, like, bad memories of --  
4 of some awful teachers in school.

5 I was in grade 3 and I was called a little  
6 bitch by a white teacher, you know? And thank  
7 God, my mom just walked in -- at the moment she  
8 called me that. But was that teacher fired? No.

9 And then I happened to walk into a class in  
10 [City 1] to pick up my sister, and just as I was  
11 walking in that teacher was calling my sister a  
12 bitch. And I was like, did she just call you a  
13 bitch? And she goes, yeah, let's go and she was  
14 scared you could tell. She just wanted to go.  
15 I'm like, but shouldn't, you know, we do  
16 something about it, she -- she can't do that.  
17 She's like don't say nothing, let's go. I was  
18 like shouldn't we tell mom? And she's like no.  
19 She was so scared of that teacher, she didn't  
20 want us to tell anybody.

21 So, I just feel like that -- the way that  
22 the -- the -- the way that they seen our people  
23 when they -- when there was first contact, I feel  
24 like that has been passed on too for up to today.  
25 Like they labelled us and I just I don't know. I  
26 just want -- I just want them to take ownership  
27 and to see that we're not struggling for nothing.  
28 We're -- this pain is real. The hurt is real and  
29 that the part that bothers me the most is that  
30 they will come up with an apology and -- but yet  
31 there's always something in the small print, you  
32 know?

33 Like when a -- when survivors went to court  
34 to prove that all that stuff happened to them,  
35 they signed the papers, they never got half the  
36 money that they were supposed to get and that at  
37 the end when they signed it. It was -- it was,  
38 you know, so and so, by signing this, so and so  
39 is saying that that these things may or may not  
40 have happened and that there is so and so is  
41 signing to say that his -- his or her children  
42 can never -- can never, what is it?

43 **MS. WOMAN C.:** Bring the -- bring the government to  
44 court.

45 **MS. WOMAN D.:** Bring the government to court. What is  
46 that? What is that? They shouldn't -- that  
47 shouldn't be in there. They don't have a right

1 to say that. Because this is going to be  
2 ongoing, the healing is going to be ongoing until  
3 the end of time. Because there's so much to  
4 heal, you know? They wanted to kill the Indian  
5 within the child. And that sentence alone paints  
6 an ugly picture of what they were willing to do  
7 to make that happen. And they did that in the  
8 residential schools.

9 So, but I wanted to say that my traditional,  
10 my ancestral name is [ancestral name], and I feel  
11 such pride inside when I say that because it's  
12 who I am, it's my identity. And that's what  
13 they're trying to steal from our people. I take  
14 great pride in who I am and where I come from and  
15 my culture and my language and culture. And if  
16 it wasn't for them, if it wasn't for the contact  
17 of Europeans and if it wasn't for -- for the  
18 residential school and the potlatch ban and the  
19 Indian Act, then I would be a fluent speaker in  
20 my language. I wouldn't be struggling today to  
21 learn my language. And they stole that from me  
22 and my children.

23 I have two boys, 21 and 18. I was raised by  
24 my mom up until I was 16 and then I went to go  
25 and live with my dad. And it was then I really  
26 got to see how residential school affected him  
27 and he never ever shared his experience. All he  
28 shared with was -- with us that, you know,  
29 because it was -- it was living with him. He --  
30 he totally lived his life I guess like how he was  
31 in residential school.

32 He got up at the same time every day, you  
33 know? He -- he - he -- and then -- and this, you  
34 know, he -- he -- because he was starved in  
35 residential school, it was so important to him  
36 that we have three big meals a day, you know? He  
37 would go to work at 6:00 in the morning, but he  
38 would -- he would make me breakfast before he  
39 left. And -- and then he would phone me at lunch  
40 to make sure that I ate. And I -- I would tell  
41 him, yeah, I had a sandwich and he'd say, no,  
42 that's not enough you need to have more. Like no  
43 dad, I'm full, you know? He's like, no, that's  
44 not enough, right?

45 So, in his mind, you know, it's still there,  
46 right? And then there was a certain, there was a  
47 way of doing everything, you know? When I was

1 cooking the pot had to be right on the burner.  
2 If I made my bed it had to be a certain way. The  
3 laundry basket had to be in one spot in the room.  
4 And when I washed and dried the laundry, it had  
5 to be a certain way. And I swear I was doing it  
6 the way he said it, but it wasn't right. And it  
7 -- it was -- it meant so much to him that he  
8 started doing my laundry because he felt I wasn't  
9 doing it the way that -- that I should do it.

10 And, you know, and it was something going to  
11 go live with him after living with mom, because  
12 with my mom we would hug, and we said, I love  
13 you, you know?

14 But then going to live with my dad, and my  
15 dad was -- and I -- I had no idea that that's how  
16 it was going to be and -- and, you know, like me  
17 and my brother, we taught him -- we taught him  
18 how to love again. We taught him how to hug. We  
19 taught him how to say, I love you again. And I  
20 didn't understand that, you know? And he sat  
21 there quiet all the time and he was so angry and  
22 impatient, and he not be like, dad, I'm -- I'm  
23 going to go out for a bit, I'll see you later, I  
24 love you. He would just sit there on his couch  
25 and watch T.V. or stare out his window. And I  
26 thought, hm, maybe -- maybe he didn't hear me.

27 So, the next day, dad, I'm going out, I love  
28 you and nothing. And I thought, hm, see like  
29 what's going on, right? So, the third day I went  
30 and stood in front of him. I said dad, I'm going  
31 out. I love you and I hugged him. And his hug  
32 hurt. He grabbed onto me really tight and he was  
33 just like on the back and I was like whoa, right?  
34 And then after that I was told that he went to  
35 residential school and that, you know, he -- he  
36 doesn't know how to do those things and my dad  
37 didn't know how to parent.

38 I was told by my -- by his best friend  
39 [Father's best friend] that, you know, because --  
40 because, you know, because we were raised by my  
41 mom and -- and -- and he -- he was abusive to  
42 her, you know? He beat her -- he beat her up and  
43 he -- he -- so I feel like I've -- I've known  
44 fear, fear was instilled in me right from the  
45 womb, because my dad was willing to put his hands  
46 on my mom even when she was carrying me. He  
47 didn't care that -- that -- that there was a



1 chance that by him doing that to her, he could  
2 terminate the pregnancy. It didn't matter to  
3 him, you know? So, that's the anger and the rage  
4 that my dad lived with. My dad refused to share  
5 his experiences.

6 And then when -- when me and my brother went  
7 to go live with him, we couldn't handle it  
8 anymore. I -- I don't know how long we lasted  
9 and we just took off and we just went to go --  
10 started to stay with friends and with family.  
11 And -- and then I guess social workers were  
12 called and -- and then they contacted me and my  
13 brother and they came to get us and we went to go  
14 see my dad, you know? And they're like [Father's  
15 nickname] what's going on? And he goes, all I  
16 can fuckin' say, is fuckin' residential school.  
17 And he just started crying really hard, and we  
18 never seen my dad cry. So, we started crying and  
19 we just couldn't do nothing but hold him and  
20 that's all he said.

21 And then the social worker said, is  
22 everything going to be okay? We said, yes. So,  
23 so she left and so, like --.

24 I don't know at what age my dad went to  
25 residential school, but he was pretty young, and  
26 he graduated from residential school. Because I  
27 was told by -- the stories by other people that  
28 attended residential school with him and he was  
29 known as the protector.

30 They said that he just seemed to know when  
31 -- when something was happening because he would  
32 just show -- show up, you know? And when  
33 somebody was being beaten or strapped and then he  
34 told a staff member to stop -- stop hitting them,  
35 and then that staff member said, if -- if you  
36 don't stop talking, then you're going to get a  
37 beating and a strapping too. And -- and then he  
38 continued to go at the kid. And then my dad said  
39 whatever you do to him, I will do to you. And  
40 then that staff member didn't believe him and so  
41 he started again, and my dad ripped that leather  
42 belt out of that staff member's hands and started  
43 beating the staff member with it and whipping him  
44 saying, see how it feels? See how it feels?

45 And so, I feel good knowing that my dad was  
46 able to do that. He was able to stand up to the  
47 staff members and he was able to protect some

1 people in there.

2 But him going to that school really changed  
3 him and I wonder today what kind of -- what kind  
4 of person he would be if that didn't happen in  
5 his life? What kind of boy he would be, what  
6 kind of life he would have had if -- if that  
7 didn't happen, you know?

8 I try to imagine what kind of father he  
9 could have been to me and my brother if he didn't  
10 go to residential school, you know? All the  
11 things he could have taught us, he knew so much.  
12 He was -- he was a traditional harvester. To me  
13 that's important. That's our way of life and he  
14 could have taught that to us. And my heart aches  
15 because he -- he was denied that love and my  
16 heart aches because he had to go through those  
17 things, you know? My dad was starved, my dad was  
18 neglected. For all I know -- and my dad was  
19 probably raped, my dad was beaten, my dad was  
20 told on a daily basis that there's something  
21 wrong with him.

22 They didn't teach him love. They taught him  
23 anger, they taught him hate. So, he took that  
24 home when he went back home. And he blamed -- he  
25 blamed my grandparents. He felt that they were  
26 the ones that stole his childhood. He felt they  
27 allowed him -- them to take him to residential  
28 school.

29 So, he felt that it was my grandparent's  
30 fault for him -- like they thought, they allowed  
31 it, but those people lied to my grandparents.  
32 They lied, they told them that -- they made it  
33 sound like a beautiful story, like it was a  
34 beautiful place, like, like -- oh your children  
35 are going to be going from this loving home to  
36 this loving place. They're going to be raised by  
37 these -- these intelligent, you know, teachers,  
38 right? They're going to raise them, they're  
39 going to clothe them, they're going to educate  
40 them, they're going to feed them. Your child's  
41 going to be, you know, going to come back to your  
42 hometown educated, right? That's what they said.

43 And so, they -- they -- and some of them  
44 were just -- just literally ripped from their  
45 homes. Literally stolen. There's families that  
46 hid, literally hid in their attic or hid  
47 somewhere for literally seven days just to make

1           sure that -- that nobody could come at their door  
2           and nobody could steal their children. You know,  
3           like that's the things that happened.

4           And so, my dad the -- the first thing he  
5           does when he gets home after he leaves  
6           residential school, is he went to beat the shit  
7           out of my grandparents and he blamed them for  
8           what he went -- for them sending him to  
9           residential school or, you know, that -- that  
10          stuff and -- and you know, my aunties and uncles  
11          talk about how -- and I know a couple of my  
12          aunties went to residential school as well. And  
13          you know, he -- he -- they -- they were all  
14          afraid of him. He was that angry, right? He was  
15          that -- that shut down -- that, you know?

16          And when we were finally going to go and  
17          live with him for the first time in our lives,  
18          you know? Or to my, you know, as long as I can  
19          remember, I know him and my mom -- my mom left  
20          him when I a year and a half. And then we  
21          finally went to go live with him when I was --  
22          was it 15?

23       **MS. WOMAN C.:** Mm-hm.

24       **MS. WOMAN D.:** Yeah. And he was so afraid, you know,  
25          he didn't know how to -- he panicked, he was  
26          like, he -- he phoned his best friend and he was  
27          in such a panic that his best friend thought that  
28          somebody died. That there was like this tragic  
29          accident or something happened, right? Because  
30          my dad was in such a panic. He was like, what's  
31          going on, what's going on [Father's nickname]?  
32          And my dad's like, my kids are coming to live  
33          with me. And he was like, oh shit that's it? He  
34          was -- I thought that something happened. And he  
35          goes, well I don't know what to do, I don't know  
36          what to do. I've never raised them, I don't know  
37          how to raise kids. He's like, what do I do, what  
38          do I do [Father's best friend]? He goes, I don't  
39          know what time to tell them to be home. He goes,  
40          I don't know what kind of food they like, I don't  
41          know how much money to give them every day, do I  
42          give them money every day?

43          You know, and -- and [Father's best  
44          friend]'s like, he goes, just ask them what they  
45          like and cook them what you like, you know? And  
46          -- and -- and then you decide what time you want  
47          them to be home, you know, and -- and then you --

1 you give them whatever amount of money you want  
2 to.

3 So, we got 20 bucks a day. Yeah, yeah. I  
4 was like, yeah, dad, I go, can I have money? And  
5 -- and -- and I was thinking two bucks, right?  
6 And then he gives me 20. I was like, do you want  
7 me to go break it? No, it's yours. Oh, okay,  
8 you know, so I'm like running, right? Okay,  
9 yeah. And then my brother goes, did you ask dad  
10 for money? I go, yeah did you? And he goes, how  
11 much did he give you? And I go how much did he  
12 give you?

13 So, like that was something right. Like he  
14 -- he didn't know. And then -- and then our  
15 curfew -- we were the only ones out of all our  
16 friends in the summer -- at summer time who had  
17 to be home on weeknights at nine o'clock and on  
18 weekends at 10 o'clock, you know? And like that  
19 was his rules, right? So, I'd be like laying  
20 there -- and I had to be up and out of bed and,  
21 you know, nine o'clock was sleeping in.

22 His mind was still trained for residential  
23 school, right? Because it was summer time, he  
24 bust through my door and he goes wake up, wake  
25 up, we slept in. He was in a panic, and I sat up  
26 and I go, what time is it? And he goes, nine  
27 o'clock. And I go, dad it's the weekend and it's  
28 summer. And I laid back down and he goes, get  
29 up, get up, have a shower, make your bed, I'll  
30 make us breakfast. And I was like, okay.

31 You know, out of all my friends I was the  
32 only one out the door before nine o'clock.  
33 Showered, the streets were empty, it was summer,  
34 you know? And I knew my -- my best friend, my  
35 childhood best friend, her name's [Friend] and  
36 their door was always open, it's, you know, it's  
37 a -- it's a, you know, we all know each other,  
38 right? So, the -- her door was always open.

39 And I knew that, and I didn't want to just  
40 like walk the streets, right or go kick rocks or  
41 whatever. So, I -- I would go to her place and I  
42 didn't want to wake her up. She had a T.V. and  
43 couch in her room, so I just went to go lay on  
44 the couch and watch T.V. and she woke up and she  
45 goes, [Woman D.]? And I go, yeah, my dad told me  
46 to come out and play. So, she was like, oh.  
47 She'd just go back to sleep and she just got, you

1 know, after a while just got used to me being  
2 there first thing in the morning.

3 And so, it was -- it was -- I'm really glad  
4 that me and my brother came back into my dad's  
5 life and I'm really glad that we taught him how  
6 to -- to -- to love again and to -- to -- to say  
7 I love you and to hug, you know? And to  
8 eventually he started to hug where it was gentle,  
9 and it was nice, you know?

10 And then -- and then to see him with his  
11 grandchildren and then to see that -- that  
12 softened his heart a little bit more, you know?  
13 And to have a little bit of that experience  
14 before he -- before he died, you know?

15 And I feel like -- like I didn't have enough  
16 time with him. I feel like I never really got to  
17 know the real him. I really wish that I did, and  
18 I know that -- that, you know, I believe in the  
19 spirit world. So, I know that -- I know that  
20 he's with me today and I know that our spirits  
21 are connected. And I know that we could still --  
22 I could still hear his voice, you know? I know  
23 that our spirits can talk to each other and --  
24 and I know that he knows I'm telling, you know,  
25 our story today and that -- but I just feel like  
26 it was residential school that took him from me  
27 too, because he took his experiences to the grave  
28 and those -- by holding on to those experiences  
29 and not sharing them and not letting them go and  
30 not healing them, it made him sick.

31 Because, you know, we were -- we were coming  
32 down here on medical and one of his appointments,  
33 he goes, my heart doesn't even look like a heart  
34 anymore. And I said, how come dad? And he goes,  
35 it just doesn't look like a heart anymore. And  
36 he -- he showed me the shape of it and how it  
37 looks now -- or how it looked then, and I thought  
38 wow. So, like all that changed his heart and it  
39 affected the relationship that he had with me and  
40 my brother. And so, that's the story with my  
41 dad.

42 Now the story with my mom. And after my mom  
43 and [Mother's Ex-partner] (sic) split up, a time  
44 after she met this man named [Mother's Ex-  
45 partner] and he was a -- a horrible man. He was  
46 a -- pedophile, a child molester. He abused us  
47 in every way. Our lives were controlled by him.

1 I say we were pretty much his puppets because it  
2 was play when I say you can play, talk when I say  
3 talk, laugh when I say you can laugh, eat when I  
4 say it's time to eat and you're going to eat  
5 everything that I cook for you, right? And --  
6 and it was -- I truly believe that -- that if I  
7 didn't eat what he cooked for me that it didn't  
8 matter how sick it made me, or how much I didn't  
9 enjoy it, that I was going to have to eat it  
10 until it -- until my plate was cleared. Even if  
11 it was old or moldy that he was going to force me  
12 to eat that food that he made, cause that's --  
13 he, you know, he insisted on it.

14 You know, it was, you know, like I -- I  
15 remember -- I remember my brother sitting over  
16 his plate trying to eat it and trying to swallow  
17 it but he couldn't, and he was like -- you know,  
18 trying to get sick, right? And [Mother's Ex-  
19 partner]'s saying, eat it, fucking eat it. If  
20 you get sick on that plate, you're going to  
21 fuckin eat that too.

22 And so, like that -- that's how our lives  
23 were with him. We always had bruises under our  
24 arms because if he didn't like the way we were  
25 acting in public or around people, he would just  
26 walk by us and give us a pinch. He would like,  
27 give us a look -- he was such a fake. He was  
28 such a fuckin' fake. He -- he wanted the world  
29 to think that -- that he was this great man,  
30 being this great step-father to these kids and  
31 that. He was, you know, that we were a happy  
32 family. But he was just a fake.

33 And, you know, like I would -- and I -- I --  
34 the way I see it is, like the -- the sexual abuse  
35 happened for about seven years and a lot of the  
36 memories -- like I don't remember all the  
37 memories. I know it went on for that long and I  
38 -- and I have -- I could -- like the way I see it  
39 is, to -- to protect me and to keep me sane, that  
40 God took a lot of those memories and put it  
41 somewhere for me. And -- and I'm really grateful  
42 for that, because I think that if He left all  
43 those memories in my mind that I wouldn't be here  
44 today. I -- I might be dead or on the street and  
45 homeless and addicted to some horrible drugs.

46 So, I'm glad that I don't remember all those  
47 memories, but I know that it happened.

1           And there's this story that I heard, and I  
2 really felt like it was my story. It was this  
3 little girl asking -- asking God, God how could  
4 you let this happen? How -- you know your -- I'm  
5 supposed to be your child, you know. How could  
6 you let this happen to me? How could you let my  
7 dad do that to me? You know, you're -- you're so  
8 powerful, you -- you can move mountains, you --  
9 you -- you created the world, so how could you  
10 let this happen to your own child?

11           And then God's response was, I -- I -- I was  
12 there and I was -- I've always been here for you  
13 and I never left you and your dad wanted to do  
14 more to you, but I whispered in his ear -- and I  
15 can't remember what He whispered in his ear, He  
16 goes, but I kept on whispering in his ear and  
17 that's why he only touched you. He wanted to do  
18 more, but he only touched you.

19           And -- and that's not to make it any less  
20 traumatizing, you know? But, you know, I -- I --  
21 that spoke to me, you know? And -- and He said  
22 to the child, I'm going to -- this is what I'm  
23 going to do for you, I'm going to take some of  
24 your memories of that and I'm going to put it  
25 away and that -- and the one thing that I'm going  
26 to leave with you is the will to never give up on  
27 yourself. The will to never stop healing and --  
28 and wanting change and moving forward. And I  
29 feel like that's what God did for me too.

30           So, when I heard that story I totally  
31 resonated with it, because I really -- and I, you  
32 know, I -- 'cause I wondered, how come, you know,  
33 like there was so many times that he sexually  
34 abused me, how come I only have a handful of  
35 memories? And then when I heard that story, I  
36 thought okay that's what happened. I prayed, and  
37 I prayed, and I cried, and I cried, and God heard  
38 me and so, that's what he did.

39           And because the nights were the worst. I  
40 would -- I would -- try to stay up as long as I  
41 could cause I knew that if I fell asleep or if  
42 everybody -- the house fell asleep, that I was  
43 going to wake up to him bothering me. And I  
44 never said nothing to nobody.

45           And we were going to bed and I guess my  
46 sister could tell that I was trying to do  
47 everything just to not have to go to bed and go

1 to sleep. And she says, if you sleep with me  
2 nothing will happen. And I never questioned it.  
3 I never said, you know? You know I never -- I  
4 never said nothing. I -- I jumped on it, I said  
5 okay. I got off top bunk and I went to go -- she  
6 said sleep on the inside. So, I said okay, so I  
7 slept on the inside and sure enough, he -- he  
8 never touched me. He never bothered me. And so,  
9 I felt so good. I felt so free. I thought, this  
10 is it, this is all I have to do is sleep with my  
11 sister and he's not going to touch me, right?  
12 Thought that was it. I thought that was done.

13 So, I felt brave and I decided to sleep on  
14 the outside, but then I woke up with him  
15 bothering me again and I thought, it doesn't  
16 matter where I sleep, he's going to bother me.

17 And, you know, I have -- there's times I  
18 tried to speak up to him, and I feel good about  
19 that, you know? Like I feel there I was this  
20 little child, you know, speaking to this grown  
21 man, supposed to be a grown man, saying you can't  
22 do this to me. You can't -- you can't touch me  
23 like that, it's not right. It's not okay. I'm  
24 -- I'm going to tell mom.

25 And -- and -- and he got mad, you know, he  
26 got -- I remember the -- the rage in his face,  
27 you know? Like he was so pissed off and, you  
28 know, it looked like he wanted to corner me, he  
29 wanted to get me, you know, he wanted to get me  
30 bad or something. And -- and so, I was like, I  
31 got to go to school, you know, and then I took  
32 off really fast and I thought he was going to  
33 chase me out the door, but he wouldn't do that,  
34 you know? He was careful to not show anything in  
35 public. Everything was behind closed doors.

36 And -- but I feel like the whole town knew.  
37 I feel like everybody knew what he was doing to  
38 me, but -- but it was so normal, and it was so  
39 around the time that if you don't talk about it,  
40 it's not a problem. That people, I don't know if  
41 they felt like it wasn't their place to say  
42 something or what, but I just feel like too many  
43 people knew for too long, you know? And it  
44 wasn't -- it wasn't reported. And it was -- it  
45 was too normal in our community for that to be  
46 happening in the homes, you know?

47 Like, 'cause I remember seeing my sister,



1 because that -- that was my sister's biological  
2 father, you know? And -- and we don't have the  
3 same parents, but my -- to me she -- she is my  
4 sister. I seen her go lay down in his arms and  
5 we're in primary at the time, you know, primary  
6 school. And she goes to lay down beside him in  
7 his -- in his arms, so I go lay on his other arm.  
8 And -- and he puts his hand in my -- in my panty.  
9 And then -- and then, so I -- I look over to  
10 [Sister] to see if he's doing the same thing to  
11 her too, right? And I thought, hmm, it didn't  
12 feel right but I was thinking maybe that's what  
13 dads do, right? Maybe that's what dads do.

14 And so, I didn't say nothing, I didn't do  
15 nothing. It bothered me for the day and it kept  
16 on playing in my mind. I kept on having  
17 questions, what -- what was that, right? You  
18 know kind of thing and -- and -- and how come he  
19 did that and -- and is that, you know, like just  
20 confusion and that.

21 So, it's like that was an experience with  
22 him and -- and another one was, my sister died in  
23 a -- in a plane crash, but if I look back and --  
24 and think about our life, he was -- he was doing  
25 the same thing to her too. Because, you know,  
26 you look at the -- because she used to wet bed.  
27 And she used to wet bed just so he wouldn't touch  
28 her. And, you know, sometimes I would wake up in  
29 the morning and I -- I couldn't find her. And --  
30 but yet she made her own bed in the closet. She  
31 -- the -- the dark was a better safer place for  
32 her than her bed. She would rather be closed in  
33 a place that was absolutely pitch black than to  
34 sleep on the bed where there could be some light.  
35 And -- and she was a child then, you know? And I  
36 opened the closet door, I said what are you  
37 doing? And she wouldn't talk about it, she  
38 wouldn't say nothing. She wouldn't even answer,  
39 she would just get up and start getting ready.

40 And, so that's another sign that -- that she  
41 was being sexually abused too by her dad. And  
42 she, you know, cause her dad went to jail for --  
43 he -- he sexually abused many of my family  
44 members. And so, he went to jail for sexually  
45 abusing me -- how long did he go for with me? Go  
46 to jail? Was it three years?

47 **MS. WOMAN C.:** Three years, but they only served -- he

1           only served two.

2       **MS. WOMAN D.:** Served two years and that's it. Like  
3           that's so -- like how does he only get two years,  
4           right? What's that going to teach him? You know  
5           it's -- he's only going to get out and go and do  
6           it again. And -- and he did.

7           So, he gets out of jail and then he sexually  
8           abuses my -- my late [Cousin], and it was my  
9           sister that walked in and -- and seen it. You  
10          know my [Cousin] was still in Pampers. And he  
11          didn't know that my sister walked in the home and  
12          seen it and he got -- it got -- he got thrown in  
13          jail.

14          [Sister] went to go visit him in jail and he  
15          said that people are going to be saying things  
16          about him, but it's not true. And she said, I  
17          just came to tell you that it was me that  
18          reported you and -- for what you did to [Cousin]  
19          and that that's why you're in jail today. And  
20          she got up and left.

21          And I feel like that's why her life was  
22          taken at such a young age, you know, 15 years  
23          old. Because she felt responsible, you know, for  
24          -- for the ones that her dad was sexually  
25          abusing. She felt like she had to protect all of  
26          us.

27          And -- and then not only that, you know, her  
28          -- she's got -- she had a memory of her mom  
29          trying to drown her when she was a baby. Holding  
30          her under water, you know? So, I feel like God  
31          took her because the pain was too much for her to  
32          carry any more and that God needed to give her  
33          peace and take her from this life so -- so that  
34          she couldn't hurt anymore.

35          But what makes me sick is that [Mother's Ex-  
36          partner]'s still here today. [Mother's Ex-  
37          partner] is living on the skids now and he's  
38          terrified of our family. But I still got this  
39          rage towards him because -- 'cause he stole my  
40          childhood. He stole my innocence. He stole  
41          -- he shattered my trust.

42          I struggle with trust today. And -- and  
43          allowing people into my life and I'm -- and I'm  
44          working on, you know, we're working on our  
45          relationship. You know we're really -- like with  
46          our family. With the healing. Like I don't have  
47          a -- and I -- I envy when I hear somebody talking

1 about the relationship that they have with their  
2 sibling. I don't have that with mine. I tell  
3 them, you're even lucky that you get to fight  
4 with your brother because I can't even do that  
5 with mine.

6 So, I'm still really hungry for -- for that  
7 connection that I never got to have as a child,  
8 with my mom and with my brother. And to me  
9 that's -- that's huge, you know? I still need  
10 that. I'm 42 years old and we're not going to  
11 stop working on it, you know? We're not going to  
12 stop the healing and we're going to continue to  
13 make things better for ourselves and for our  
14 family.

15 But you know, you -- I still can't help but  
16 feel the -- the frustration and the anger and the  
17 rage that -- that we have to do this, you know?  
18 That we have to fix what they created, you know?  
19 We have to -- and I feel like we have to because,  
20 like -- like who are we without our family, you  
21 know? Like -- so I really -- I really want -- I  
22 really want -- I really want that relationship  
23 with my -- with my mom and -- and my brother and  
24 actually my whole family, you know?

25 I'm tired of those walls being up and -- I  
26 would love to see healing for our people and for  
27 my community because we're so struggling with --  
28 we're so struggling because not enough healing  
29 has taken place yet.

30 I believe that they instilled in the  
31 children that attended residential school, got  
32 passed on. That belief that we're not good  
33 enough, that there's something wrong with us,  
34 that we're not smart enough, we're not, you know,  
35 we're -- we're just, we're not good enough for --  
36 for anything. Not even our way of life, you  
37 know? Like that belief has been passed on from  
38 generation to generation to generation. And I  
39 want that God, I want that belief God. I want to  
40 see our people flourish and rise.

41 I want to -- and -- and -- and there is good  
42 things happening in our community. There are  
43 people that are, you know, there's just -- that  
44 are flourishing, that are rising, that are  
45 succeeding, that are -- are graduating, that are  
46 healing, that are, you know, that are -- that are  
47 today learning from our past experiences and

1 becoming amazing parents because they didn't want  
2 to -- they -- they wanted the cycle broken and  
3 they, you know, created a beautiful life for  
4 themselves and for their children.

5 And I see that happening in our community  
6 now, but still there's -- there's way too --  
7 there's more people hurting than people  
8 succeeding, and I want to see our -- more people  
9 succeeding.

10 I want to see those people that -- that  
11 think they don't deserve any better, I want to  
12 see them walking taller, living better, you know?  
13 Taking care of themselves and taking care of  
14 their home and seeing that living a -- that they  
15 deserve a healthy life, you know? That they  
16 deserve -- they deserve a great life. That they  
17 don't need to numb themselves anymore with  
18 alcohol or drugs and that, you know? I want to  
19 see our people feeling proud of who they are and  
20 where they come from. Proud to say that I am  
21 [First Nation 1], you know? And that, you know,  
22 this is who I am and this is where I come from  
23 and this is my language and this is my culture,  
24 this is my beliefs and my traditions, you know?

25 Like I want to see that in our people and in  
26 our children and that -- instead of all the --  
27 the brokenness and the alcoholism, you know,  
28 cause it's just -- it seems like the -- the  
29 people that you see struggling with alcohol, you  
30 know the ones that don't even have money to buy  
31 it, but yet somehow, they can get drunk every day  
32 and they just follow the parties, you know? I  
33 want to see them -- I want to see them healthy  
34 and living a healthy lifestyle and I want to see  
35 more things in our community to make that happen.  
36 Like I feel like there's not enough of that in  
37 our community.

38 I wonder, you know, like -- you know they  
39 have the -- like how come there isn't any, like  
40 residential school program or survivor program in  
41 our community, right? How come -- how come the  
42 funding has stopped? The funding should have  
43 never stopped. Like it should be ongoing that,  
44 you know, like there should be programs where  
45 there's regalia making, drum making, food  
46 harvesting, times where we're serving the elders  
47 and then -- then without realizing it, that --

1 that connection is -- is -- is being mended again  
2 and being brought together. That -- that gap is  
3 being filled and that, you know, you're going to  
4 see -- hear the voices of the elders and our  
5 community again and they're going to feel like  
6 they have a voice in our community and they're,  
7 you know, the stories are -- that are going to be  
8 told are going to come from them, you know?

9 And I want to see -- it would be nice to see  
10 like dance practices again happening.

11 Traditional dance practices happening in our  
12 community and more like healing workshops  
13 happening. And I think that they should be  
14 training our people to do that for our people,  
15 not bringing outsiders in to do that for our  
16 people. I think our people should be doing that  
17 for ourselves and we should decide on our own  
18 what -- what -- what we need in order to heal and  
19 grow and move forward from the trauma and create  
20 all these programs right from, you know, infant  
21 programs, girl power, you know?

22 And it -- it's got to be balanced out  
23 because they seem to -- well I guess because  
24 women seem to be more open to share and more  
25 vocal that there's more programs offered to  
26 women.

27 But I really feel that it -- we can't  
28 neglect the men anymore. We can't leave them  
29 out, because they're a big part of the healing  
30 too. You can't heal just one part, right?  
31 You've got to heal everybody, because we're --  
32 it's a part of the circle, you know? Once one is  
33 affected, then it's going to, you know? Like  
34 just imagine if the women and the men get healed,  
35 the effect it could have on their families for  
36 the children and for the future generations.

37 Just positive changes that it could bring  
38 our people and I just want to see more -- more in  
39 our community, you know, offered to our people  
40 for -- for healing.

41 So, that's why I think that -- that's why I  
42 think those women are missing, and those girls.  
43 Because they -- they lost their way. Somebody  
44 seen the brokenness in them and took advantage of  
45 that.

46 And so, if -- and if that's healed in us  
47 today and healed in -- for our children, then

1           there's no way that we could lose our way. You  
2           know, it's -- and there's no way that anybody  
3           could take advantage of us like that. If we were  
4           stronger that -- that there's no way anything  
5           like that could, you know, could happen.

6           So, that's what I want. I want them to see  
7           how -- how we were -- how we were affected, you  
8           know? That there's so much that needs to be  
9           healed, there's so much that needs to be fixed  
10          and that they're a big part of it. And that they  
11          need to accept it. They need to accept it as the  
12          truth and they need to -- to -- I don't know if  
13          they need to move forward with us in a positive  
14          way. I know that we could do that as First  
15          Nations people, you know with our language and  
16          our culture. But I think that they should always  
17          provide the funding for -- so that the healing  
18          never stops with our people.

19          Because our people heal in different ways  
20          and in -- and at different times. You can't tell  
21          a person that, you know you need to just deal  
22          with it now. You need to talk about it, right?  
23          Like -- things are going to come up at different  
24          times and I believe it's your -- your -- your --  
25          it's your body taking care of you, like and the  
26          Creator. It's only going to give you so much  
27          that you can handle, right? And it's piece by  
28          piece, like part at a time.

29          I'm going to give you this right now and  
30          this is what you're going to deal with, okay?  
31          You know kind of thing, and it's like, and then  
32          that's what you're given to -- to deal with.  
33          There's no more that you can deal with or handle  
34          in that time. Even we have no control over it.  
35          We could get impatient and frustrated that we're  
36          not fully healed yet, but you know, like we just  
37          have to listen to our bodies too.

38          And so, I think that the funding should  
39          never ever stop. It shouldn't have ever stopped.  
40          Because I worked with a residential school  
41          project when it was in my community and it was  
42          something to hear those stories. You know, I  
43          never expected these people to come in and  
44          literally share their experiences with me.

45          And I, you know, I see it as -- as a -- as a  
46          blessing that I got to work in that program,  
47          because I got to do the research, you know, I got

1 -- but it was tough. Because I -- it affected my  
2 sleep and even during the day, if I closed my  
3 eyes, I was surrounded by residential school  
4 girls, you know, like that's what I seen.

5 And I -- I didn't understand why the  
6 Minister kept coming -- coming to visit us on a  
7 daily basis and it was like, what are you doing  
8 here, right? And -- and then he was like, in  
9 case you're wondering, you know, and this is a  
10 tough job, you know. You guys have a tough job  
11 and so if ever you want to debrief, you know, I'm  
12 here.

13 And I thought, I'm not going to need to  
14 debrief and it wouldn't be with you, right, kind  
15 of thing. That's what I thought. And -- and I  
16 didn't think at the time, but two weeks after  
17 into the job, and I got to do research, then I  
18 knew what he was talking about. I needed to  
19 debrief. I needed to let go what I researched,  
20 you know? I needed to put that somewhere and he  
21 was willing to be the one to take it, you know,  
22 to hear it.

23 And he was awesome, he was like -- he was  
24 like -- I was like, I -- I was like I'm pissed  
25 off. I'm so mad. He goes, you got a right to  
26 be, you got a right to be. He goes, be pissed  
27 off. He goes, swear if you need to. He goes, he  
28 was a Minister -- he was like, just fucking get  
29 it out, you know? And it was like, you know, he  
30 listened to everything I said, he didn't judge  
31 anything. And -- and what I shared with him,  
32 when I was angry he was just as angry too, right?

33 You know, and so it was good to have like  
34 that support there for us, because what we were  
35 taking on and reading on a daily basis, and  
36 hearing you know from these residential school  
37 survivors was -- was so much. And so, you know,  
38 and it was something to read, you know.

39 We got sent to B.C. archives and I can't  
40 believe they've got this stuff documented, you  
41 know? Like they're -- like my uncle [Uncle], you  
42 know, like oh [Uncle] is doing good and we're --  
43 we're -- we're happy to say that he's -- he's --  
44 he's left his old ways and he's not potlatching  
45 anymore. But, you know, we're worried because  
46 he's going to be going home for the summer and he  
47 says he's going to be doing fishing. So, we're

1 going to check on him.

2 I'm like wow, you know, like they document  
3 that stuff, right? And they literally document  
4 that they wanted to kill the Indian within the  
5 child. Like all that stuff is there. And they  
6 question -- they question why we're struggling  
7 today when, yet they wanted -- they wanted to  
8 steal -- they wanted to wipe us out and yet they  
9 question why we struggle.

10 And so, that's it, you know. That's --  
11 that's why we struggle and that they need to take  
12 ownership. Like I want justice. I want -- I  
13 want justice for our people. I want them to -- I  
14 want somebody to take responsibility for what  
15 they've done to generations of our people. And I  
16 want the healing to begin now. And I don't want  
17 no more questions and no more doubt, you know? I  
18 want them to just back off and accept who we are  
19 and -- and, you know? Like a way they could be a  
20 part of it is provide the funding and if they,  
21 like I -- yeah.

22 Thank you for listening.

23 **MR. HOPE:** Mm-hm. Okay, I have a couple of questions,  
24 just to -- just to clarify some things here.  
25 Okay, your father's name was?

26 **MS. WOMAN D.:** [Father], but you know what, I -- I  
27 named my -- I named my son [Son].

28 **MR. HOPE:** Mm-hm.

29 **MS. WOMAN D.:** And then I said I named him after you  
30 dad, and he goes, my name's [Father's first  
31 name]. And I go, what? And he goes, my name's  
32 [Father's first name]. I go, how come everybody  
33 calls you [Nickname for Father]? And he goes,  
34 because there was too many [Father's middle name]  
35 in the -- oh too many [Father's first name] in  
36 the residential school when I was going.

37 **MR. HOPE:** Mm-hm.

38 **MS. WOMAN D.:** So, they -- they called me by my middle  
39 name and that's why they call me [Nickname] now.  
40 And so, that's the sad thing that he lived with  
41 that name for his whole, you know, for his life.

42 **MR. HOPE:** Mm-hm.

43 **MS. WOMAN D.:** All because there was too many  
44 [Father's first name] in the residential school,  
45 so he's called [Nickname]..

46 **MR. HOPE:** Mm.

47 **MS. WOMAN D.:** Mm-hm.

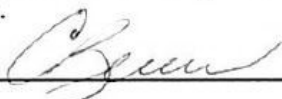


1 MR. HOPE: Okay, can you spell your traditional name?  
2 MS. WOMAN D.: [Spells name].  
3 MR. HOPE: [Spells name].--  
4 MS. WOMAN D.: [Spells name].  
5 MR. HOPE: [Spells name]..  
6 MS. WOMAN D.: Yeah.  
7 MR. HOPE: How do you spell that -- how do you say  
8 that again?  
9 MS. WOMAN D.: [Ancestral name].  
10 MR. HOPE: [Ancestral name]. And that means?  
11 MS. WOMAN D.: [Describes meaning].  
12 MR. HOPE: Mm.  
13 MS. WOMAN D.: And that name belonged to my granny  
14 [Grandmother]. And then it was passed down to my  
15 mom, and then they passed it down to me.  
16 MR. HOPE: Okay.  
17 MS. WOMAN D.: Mm-hm.  
18 MR. HOPE: Okay, the -- do you know the name of the  
19 residential school that your father went to?  
20 MS. WOMAN D.: [Indian Residential School] in  
21 [Community].  
22 MR. HOPE: [Indian Residential School]. Okay. Your  
23 brother, is he younger or older?  
24 MS. WOMAN D.: He's older.  
25 MR. HOPE: Older?  
26 MS. WOMAN D.: Mm-hm.  
27 MR. HOPE: Okay. Okay, so I have no further questions  
28 and I just want to say, in my language [foreign  
29 language], thank you for coming in to share your  
30 -- your truth and for me to bear witness to that.  
31 So, I just want to end that right there with the  
32 time at 10:54 a.m.

33  
34 (STATEMENT CONCLUDED)  
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I hereby certify that this is a true and accurate transcript of these proceedings recorded on sound recording apparatus, transcribed to the best of my skill and ability in accordance with applicable standards.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Brown  
Court Transcriber