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4-10-2014

### Statement by Shirley J. Cogswell collected by Charlotte Bacon on April 10, 2014

Shirley J. Cogswell

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### General Information

**Private or Public Statement?** - Private

**Statement Provider:** Shirley J. Cogswell

**Date:** 4/10/2014

**Location:** Sipayik, Maine

**Previous Statement?** N/A

**Statement Gatherer:** Charlotte Bacon

**Support Person:** Stephanie Bailey

**Additional Individuals Present:** Carol Wishcamper, Rachel George

**Recording Format:** Audio

**Length of Recording:**

### Recording

**SB:** Are we Ready? Okay, Stephanie Bailey. I am Shirley's support.

**SC:** Shirley Cogswell.

**CB:** I am Charlotte Bacon, statement gatherer.

**CW:** Carol Wishcamper, TRC Commissioner.

**RG:** And Rachel George, TRC Research Coordinator.

**CB:** And just two more small pieces of business before we get started listening to your story. Um, the first is that we need to have on the recording that you've given your informed consent.

**SC:** Yes, I do.

**CB:** Thank you very much. And the second thing is, is that this is something that we also tell all people who are providing statements to us that if something comes to light that suggests that there is some imminent harm to an elder, to a minor, or to the person giving the statement, that

we need to report that. We can't hold that information in confidence. We need to protect those people.

**SC:** Umhm, Okay.

**CB:** We just need to let you know that. And, just on behalf of the TRC, we want to thank you for honoring us with your story and with your truth.

**SC:** Umhm.

**CB:** What you're doing is an incredibly important step toward healing in Wabanaki communities and we honor your experience. We're grateful to you for your bravery in sharing what you're going to share.

**SC:** Umhm

**CB:** And we are here just to listen for as long as you need to talk.

**SC:** Okay.

**CB:** If afterwards, you just, if you need a break, you take a break. If afterwards, you want to change the statement, amend it in any way that is utterly up to you. This is your story. You control how it is, how it is heard, seen, used.

**SC:** Okay.

**CB:** Okay

**[00:01:36.13] SC:** Um, are we first going to talk about the child welfare system? Or, the state or the local child welfare system?

**CB:** Were really here to talk about what your experience inside any of those systems has been, where you see, memories that you have of how it was used.

**SB:** Umhm.

**CB:** Places where you see it did not work, places where it might have worked, whether...

**SB:** Even with your grandchildren.

**CB:** With your own family...

**SC:** Umhm

**CB:** grandchildren, um... if you have ideas about how it could be reformed.



**SC:** Umhm. Well, um, there was one that really bothered me and that was when they, when the child, the state child welfare system took the children away from my aunt because they said that they weren't there for the children, the children weren't being looked after...

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** and the thing is, when you live on the reserve, back in my time, everybody on the reservation, more or less, takes care of everybody else's kids...It's like one big parent on the reserve that monitors not even their own children but the other people's children.

**CB:** Umhm

**SC:** And, to make sure that they never come to harm or anything like that, but...you know, I don't know a lot, a lot of what the people all did in their homes because we weren't allowed, in my home, we weren't allowed to go out and mingle with a lot of people because of, you know, what could happen and stuff. I was raised by my grandparents because my mother didn't want me and she didn't want my father to have me. So, ah, I feel like that I have a void in my heart.

**CB:** mm.

[00:03:41.06] **SC:** And ah because of the way I feel, I have a lot of compassion for what I see happen to the other children.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, I wished I was a little young, a little older back then when the children were taken away, I would have taken care of them myself...because when the state took the children and put em' in a home in Machias, East Machias, those children were sodomized. And, we were told that the children were, um, well taken care of, they were in a good home, we met the people that took care of the children. They looked like, ah, they were nice people. They weren't rich or anything, but they were church-going people. And, we thought the children would be safe there and we went to see them.

But, the children weren't okay there. And, ah, I guess there's a lot of child molesters all over the world that, ah, harm children and you know, that is very painful to me. Because, ah, it feels like a child needs to feel safe, a child needs to feel safe and loved, even if your parent is drinking. My grandparents, they drank on weekends and that pretty near scared me, you know. And, um, my little cousin, she was nine, she was five years younger than I was and I told her, when you were, you know, alone at night and we'd hold each other and ah wait for everything to blow over by Sunday and everything was okay. So, that was very, ah, traumatic for me.

**CB:** Of course.

[00:05:38.27] **SC:** And there were other things that happened to me when I was a child, but I don't want to discuss that. I've discussed a lot of stuff with my counselor and stuff. Not her...

**SB or CW:** (*Laugh*)

**SC:** But yeah, my mental health counselor and I went to counseling for many years to try to get help so I could get over a lot of this stuff that I had to go through.

But, what bothers me, is there is so many people, on the reserve now, I hear, I'm not...I'm not personally knowledgeable about people doing harm to their own children or whatever, but I hear of it. And, I think it's not, it's bad. And, as far as the child welfare is concerned, the ah, ever since, let me, let me put it this way, when the non-Indians landed on this continent, ages ago, over two hundred years ago, we had to conform to the way of, the way they wanted us to live. Either that or we're wild or whatever but nobody back then ever even thought of hurting their child. And, we never went hungry. Now, there's a lot of children that are hungry because they're not being taken care of. The state is, and the state and federal people are more into donating money towards the war effort or whatever effort, instead, of trying to take care of the people.

[00:07:24.26] And, when I worked in child welfare, I tried..

**CB:** Did, did you work for tribal child welfare?

**SC:** Yes.

**CB:** Here?

**SC:** Yes.

**CB:** At Pleasant Point?

**SC:** Yea... no, at Princeton.

**CB:** At Princeton.

**SC:** Yes.

**CB:** And when, when was that Shirley?

**SC:** Back in the, ah, back in the nineties.

**CB:** In the nineties.

**SC:** Yea. And ah, I worked down at Peter Dana Point. I mean Pleasant, Indian Township.

**SB:** Yup.

**SC:** And, ah the child welfare system while I was there, we would, we tried to help, the director and I, we would try to do what was right for the children. And, there was a time when I tried to help a few children. I did help a lot, but there were certain people that were doing harm to children and we were told to stop investigation.

**CB:** Who told you that?

**SC:** The governor.

**CB:** Who was that at the time?

**SC:** Bobby Newell. And, um, it, because it was one of his relatives that was doing the perpetrating and stuff like that. And, I said, " I can't do that." And, I lost my job.

**CB:** Who was your director, at the time?

**SC:** Ah, her name was Linda. I can't even remember her last name, now.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** But, ah, she worked there for awhile and then she got done. I don't know what happened, after that. But, ah, now the child welfare system, I tried to tell the director, here, now, Molly... we wanted to let her know that it was not okay for the children to be sent out into the, you know off the reservation, to be taken care of by somebody else.

*[00:09:19.00]* Because of, ah, we don't know what's really going on in that home. We can't tell. And, I really can't say what would be good for the children, but there's a lot of people that are good people and a lot that are doing drugs and alcohol. And, I told Molly, I said, " I'd be willing to take somebody." If, you know, if they had somebody, somewhere, because I don't do any of that stuff...

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, ah, I just, I can't get over how, it, the state, does not realize that, what it's doing, because, ah, it's, ah, I hate to say this, it's like being prejudice or don't give a shit.

**CB:** Yeah.

**SC:** And, ah, cause a lot of stuff that happens on the reserve and a lot of things that I hear off

the reserve, "The only good Indian is a dead Indian." And, right to this day, there's a lot of people out there, that feel the same way because I hear it myself.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, ah, I don't think it's right. There's a man whose friend's used to come down here on the reserve to go hunting. He was the guide, I guess. And, towards the end, at the end of the hunting season, he drank with em', I guess, at his house. And, they wanted to go with his children and they were just young girls and he did not want that. And what they did, they beat him with a 2x4 and he was in the hospital for a long time and that man was not the same. He was, he was a nice man. And he was still a nice man.

**CB:** When did that happen?

**SC:** Oh god, that was, I was just about ten years-old or something.

**CB:** And that was here, at Sipayik?

**SC:** Yes. And, ah, nothing ever happened to them, people. They weren't arrested or there was no investigation.

**CB:** And, they were white people?

*[00:11:45.01]* **SC:** Yes.

**CB:** Can you tell me more, if you're willing to about what happened with your Aunt's children?

**SC:** Well...

**CB:** And, and what you knew and saw and felt about that.

**SC:** Well, she...

**CB:** And what happened to them afterwards.

**SC:** She, she got, she got her children back. Her and her husband split up. And, she took care of the children, her children, the best she could.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, ah, until the time she died. They, they stayed with her but by that time, the damage had been done to those boys and, ah, they drink and do drugs now.

**CB:** Umhm.



**SC:** Which, everyone, a lot of people do on this reservation. And, ah, I just don't, I just, I can't put, somehow I feel like I should have been able to do something and I couldn't. Those kids should have stayed home because we all had, if they, if the state knew that the families all took care of each other, instead of just taking the children away, there was always someone that would help the children, take care of them, if the parent wasn't there or anything.

**CB:** Mmm.

**SC:** But, ah..

**CB:** How old were the kids when they were taken? There were three of them?

**SC:** They were three boys. Three boys and they were like a year apart. They were like, nine, eight and whatever..

**CB:** Seven.

**SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** Mmm.

[00:13:31.17] **SC:** And, it's, it just, (*sigh*). It just kills me to, to think about them children having to go through all that and they could have been taken care of at home. This is why, the state doesn't realize that the extended family, there was an extended family.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** On the reserve.

**CB:** Right.

**SC:** And that, took care of, you know, all of the other children, when something wasn't right.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Now, we don't have that system. We've gone totally, we don't give, nobody gives a shit for anybody anymore.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, it's, it's hard

**CB:** Of course it is.

**SC:** It's hard.

**CB:** Can you say some more about your work as a tribal child welfare worker over at Indian Township? What that was like for you, things that went well. I know you mentioned some things that did not go as well, couldn't protect some kids.

**SC:** Well...

**CB:** What about that system worked and what didn't?

**SC:** Well, the only way, back then, that it worked was we were doing the job the way it was supposed to be done.

The director had knowledge of what she was supposed to do. She was knowledgeable in the Indian Child Welfare Act, as I was, and after I got, after I got fired because... well let me tell you this other story about this other little boy that was out in Wisconsin. He was, ah, I had to go out there and be, ah, back then, I was, ah, guardian ad litem.

**CB:** Umhm.

*[00:15:23.15]* **SC:** And, ah, one of the welfare workers and I, we went out there and investigated the child's condition, you know, where he lived and how he was and stuff like that. And, we couldn't find the other boy, I don't know, right to this day, I don't know where that boy is. And, ah, that little boy lived with his, they, these people took him in. He was a doctor and they had two sons and his wife and they treated the boy good. And, I asked him, when I talked to him, I asked him all kinds of questions and he said, "Please don't take me away. I don't want to go on the reserve... everybody drinks and whatever. Nobody takes care of me and stuff." So, ah this child was satisfied living right there and we had to investigate the people and they were okay. He would, they would, they had money set aside for him for his college education and stuff. They treated him like, it was, it was their...

**CB:** Their son?

**SC:** own child.

**SC:** Yea. So, I felt comfortable in putting, you know, when I did my report, I said that the child should stay right where he was because he did not want to come down.

**CB:** And how old was he?

**SC:** He was only, he was about, god!...twelve.... Twelve years-old. Yea, but the other child we never found him. And, when I came home, I told the people, I said, "When I get home, I'm gonna go to the bank and I'll write and I'll notify the ah, the ah, the person that has to take care of the, ah, the money part of the Indian Trust Fund, you know, the money that comes in from



the Land Claims and stuff that we get the money and stuff like that. The, ah, I contacted the lady and I told her that I wanted to transfer this boy's money to his account in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, at Bank One. So, I contacted her office and I contacted, I spoke with the bank in Wisconsin and I was trying to do a transfer and I found out that his mother...that they didn't, they didn't get in touch with me to say, "Okay, lets do the transaction."

It took me three times to go over to her office. I said, "And, If you don't give me a satisfactory answer now, I'm gonna have to take it to another level." And she said, " Close the Door." And so, I closed the door and she was crying, she said, "The money isn't there." She said, "The money was taken out and spent." That was set-aside for that boy. So, it was the government that took his money out.

**SB:** The tribal government, right?

**SC:** Umhm.

**SB:** Can I just ask too, Mama, was wondering, So all kids that are in custo..., I never thought about that, the kids that are in custody of the Child Welfare Department, they're per-capita disbursements supposed to go in to a fund while they're in....Huh, I wonder what's going on today with that. I never thought about that.

**CB:** Umhm, that would be really interesting to follow up on.

**SB:** Hmm, I just thought about that.

**SC:** Yeah. I was always concerned for that little boy, but his money was gone so I had to write that his people, the guardians of the boy, I had to tell them that, what happened. And, if they wanted me to take it to the next level, they would have to go to court or whatever against the tribe and stuff and I would have to testify, but they never did anything.

And the relatives of that little boy that were on the reservation never did anything. I tried to get help from them.

[00:19:52.09] **SC:** To do the right thing but helping me talk to the governor, release the money, but nobody wanted to do anything.

Yeah. So, ah, ever since the Land Claim came in, everything's been, when the election time comes around, people are being paid off for their vote. So, the people that shouldn't be in there, are in there! Because of this...

**CB:** Yeah.

**SC:** And, we don't have anything, the people. You know, we hardly get anything. When the Land Claim came in, there was a million dollars set aside, just for the elders and I don't know how much for the whole reserve, but the money that we get for the elderly, there's not very many elders left...And, we hardly get anything. Last, last quarter I got, it was nineteen-dollars. What happened to the money? And, this quarter, this is the check I got, thirty-five, thirty-five dollars.

**SB:** Really?

**SC:** Yup.

**CW:** For the quarter.

**SC:** Yeah.

**SB:** Wow...

**SC:** Every quarter we get money. And, we're, there's not that many elders. And, that should be, there was supposed to be a million dollars set aside but somebody took that money out too. So our own people are messing us up... I hate to say...I don't want it to sound to be bad but it's, they are. They, they, it's, it's awful and I, I've just got so tired of fighting, I just, I got sick out of it. I got cancer cause of the depression you go through trying to do what's right and helping people. Never seen anything you can do. Nothing's gonna change and that's what I keep telling her. Nothing is gonna change, no matter how hard you fight. People don't change. Yeah... so... It would have been better off if we never got any money, whatsoever.

And stayed the same. I remember when I was a child, my grandfather would go to work in the morning, you know, four o'clock, he would go and put coal in the furnaces of the church, the rectory, the nun's place, and the school. Then, he'd come home and he'd cook breakfast. Him and I would eat breakfast together and then we'd go to church. I went to church every morning with my grandfather and ah, after, after church, he'd go to work in the woods to cut railroad ties. So, he was the kind of person that tried to not live off the state but, you know, try to support us, himself. Because, it wasn't much what you got from the state every month.

*[00:23:11.17]*

**CB:** When you were a little girl and you were growing up with your grandparents, did you have siblings with you or just your cousin?

**SC:** Just my cousin and my uncle.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** You know, he was a teenager, I was the next oldest and then my cousin.



**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah. Cause my grandmother had nine children, but they were all grown and married and off, you know.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** And, did you ever re-establish contact with your parents?

**SC:** Yes, I went, my mother picked me up every summer, after I got out of school so I could take care of my other brothers and sisters from her second marriage cause she divorced my father when I was little and gave me away and she went off and found somebody else. And, ah, she had thirteen kids.

**CB:** Wow.

**SC:** Not counting me. And the oldest one of the second batch died. And, ah, all the other ones, I took care of.

**CB:** Was that at Sipayik or at the township?

**SC:** No, um at Indian Island.

**CB:** At Indian Island?

**SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** So she moved to, um, Penobscot Nation?

**SC:** Umhm. And, she married there and had all them kids.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yup, and, I took care of them every, every summer.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Thank god my grandmother taught me how to cook when I was just seven. She'd teach me little things here and there and how to keep the house clean and stuff like that. Can't do that too

much anymore, can't get around....

**CB:** Well your house, your house is spotless!

**SC:** It's so dusty!

**CB:** No, it's not!

**SC:** 'Ahh'

**CB:** Shirley, it looks amazing!

**SB:** She's got O.C.D. too. *(Laughs)*

**CB:** Ohh. *(Laughs)*

**SC:** *(Laughs)* Yeah, but, ah..

**CB:** Did her children stay with her from that second marriage? Did they stay...

*[00:25:11.29]* **SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** with her?

**SC:** Yeah. She wasn't there most of the time, even when she was at home because I took care of the kids. My dad, my step-dad, he treated me like his own daughter.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, he had two jobs. After, he'd get out of work at one job, he'd go to work, so he never, I never saw him until, you know next morning when he was leaving again. And, um, my mother after she got out of work with the first, because she worked at the shoe shop and she never came home. She'd go to the bar and stay there 'til it closed. And, then one time, ah, one of my sisters, she was only a baby, and she had a fever and she wouldn't come home, so I had to call my dad at the state hospital to come home and so we could take the baby to the doctor's and this was like ten o'clock, ten-thirty and he said, "Where's your mother?" I said, " You know where she is."

So, he came home and we took the baby, we had to get the doctor up, and he, ah, he took care of the baby. And, ah, we went home and he said, "I'm, I'm gonna go get your mother." I said, "Go ahead." So, I went back and put the baby back to sleep for the night and he brought her home and beat the hell outta her...

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** I told him to.



**CW:** *(laugh)*

**SC:** Because I was so mad she wouldn't come home for the baby.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** It's like I hated her at that time.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Because she didn't give a shit for the, for the kid. I shouldn't've said that. *(Sigh)* My brothers and sisters, they ah, she had three sets of twins and there was always one she didn't take care of. And, it was the lighter colored one, you know and I hated that. There was a, one that, that wasn't a twin, that looked just like my step-dad and she didn't like him either. And she'd tell me step-dad, "Take the belt to him!" And, my dad beat the shit out of my little brother. And the next time she did that, I grabbed him and I told him, "Daddy, don't you touch this baby." And, he didn't. He didn't. But, my mother, she, I don't know what was wrong with her. Maybe she didn't like kids, but why in the hell did she have so many of em'?

**SB:** *Laugh*

**CB:** So many kids.

**SC:** See, I, I could identify with my brothers and sisters because she was never there when she should've been. And, when we, when they got older, like I'd go visit my mother in Old Town and this was just before she died, you know, I used to go visit her. And, she'd say, "Why, don't the kids come around. They live right here but they never come to see me!" I said, "Mom, you have to let the kids go and," I said, "you have to stop griping at em'!" Because, I said, "think about it mom, why do you care what they do now, because you were never there when they were small to do what, what's right for them.

[00:28:54.09] **SC:** And, they don't, if that, if, it's too late for you, for them to change." I did the best I could, but they weren't doing anything bad or anything, it's just they never went to visit her.

I said, "You have to let em' go because according, you know, in the bible it says, 'When your children grow up, you have to let em' leave the nest.'" And, she took that the wrong way. She kicked me out. *(Laugh)* Yeah.

My dad got mad, but that's okay, you know. Back then, I acted at, when I got older I just had to take everything with a grain of salt, you know, just ("shwoop" noise). Just let it go. But, you

know, ah, what goes on, on the reserve, now, is, ah, it has not changed from since we got the Land Claims. There were some governors that were in there that were okay, especially from here. Ahum, Francis Nicholas was a good governor and Hartley Nicholas was a good governor. They were honest people and they did the best they could. I worked for both of em'.

**CB:** What was your job when you worked for them?

[00:30:21.10] **SC:** Ah, with, ah, Francis Nicholas, I was, ah, Personnel Director.

**SB:** Is that Bibby?

**SC:** Umhm.

**SB:** Okay, yup.

**SC:** And with Hartley Nicholas, I was Personnel Director plus Chief Judge on the reservation. So, that was what I did back then. And I tried to teach, the child welfare back then was this other woman, not Molly, but this other lady and I tried to teach her the Indian Child Welfare Act because she couldn't understand it.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** So, I'd tell her what she had to do and stuff.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, ah, she didn't like it, because she wanted to go on trips all the time. And, at the time, when she wanted to go on the trips, she'd, she would've had, she was supposed to be in court with the children and she never. So, I told the governor and said, "You're gonna have to do something because this woman would rather go meet a friend somewhere on our time, the tribe's time, when she should be doing is here at Child Welfare..." So he put a stop to it.

**CB:** Can you tell me more about your time as a judge? What that was like and what you saw?

**SC:** Well, ah...

**CB:** Did cases of child welfare come across?

**SC:** Well, like I said, I tried to teach, I tried to teach the director of the Social Services. She was doing Child Welfare and Social Services.

And, ah, I tried to tell her what she needed to have to do before she came to court and what she had to do, when she placed children in a place. And, I'd tell her, "I need to, I need reports on how the kids are doing in that family," and stuff like that.

**CB:** Mmm.



**SC:** And, she, ah, she didn't like that. But, um, there were other cases that I had to hear that came before me and I was told to throw 'em out by the Governor. And, I said, "I can't do that." I said, " You gave me this job, to do the job right, for the people. And this is where I am working for now, for other people, for the betterment of the people. And, if I have to do the job the right way, I can't do it any other way..."Other than..., cause I was raised different by my grandparents.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** I was raised according to that thing right there. (Smacks hand down on Bible). The Bible. ... [00:33:12.08] And, I don't have too many friends now.

And, I was asked to throw out a lot of cases and I couldn't. And, they told me I'd be fired and I said, "You go right ahead, if you wanna fire me, you go ahead."

Because there were times when I had to sign a check and there was no back-up paper for that check and I'd say, "I can't sign this check, unless I get the back-up paper." And, I'd take a copy of the back-up paper and put it in my file because, if there's something wrong and there's money missing, whose gonna be to blame? My signature's on that check. And, I was the check-signer. So, I told em', "No, I ain't signing any check without a back-up paper."

And they'd said, "Well you do it; either that or you'll get fired." And, I'd say, "You're gonna have to fire me, then." I said, "Because if you, ah, if you fire me," I said, "I'll go before the people and I'll tell, I'll tell em' what you're wanted me to do."

And, they were gonna send somebody thirty-five thousand dollars, who was related to this, to the Chief. And, I wouldn't do it. But, they, they didn't fire me either. I don't how they got around the whole thing, but nothing like that came through my office again.

**CB:** Yeah.

**SC:** And, I never dropped any case and there were people that came into my office, when I was a judge, with a gun and they said, "You need to drop this case, or else we'll shoot you." I said, "You go right ahead and shoot me now. Shoot me now or else, when you leave, I'm gonna call the federal people and you're gonna be the one that they're gonna be looking at, if anything happens to me or my family." I said, "Go ahead."

**CB:** As a judge, and Shirley, I'm sorry to ask this, this shows my own ignorance of the systems in place on the reservation, did you have any chance to make recommendations about child welfare? Say, 'We could do this. We shouldn't do that. We should try to put in this policy.' Were you ever consulted? Did you have any of that power?

**SC:** No.

**CB:** Umhm.

[00:35:43.03] **SC:** No, I just ah, the only thing I required Child Welfare to do, was to make, you know, visitations.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Visitations and I wanted the report.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, I wanted the report, but the other stuff I could not do anything about, you know.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** What they did...

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** I wish I could've, but I didn't have that power.

**CB:** How long were you a judge?

**SC:** About,

(Phone Rings)

**SC:** four,

**CB:** Sorry? Turn it off. I am so sorry.

**SC:** three or four years, I guess.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Three or four years.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** I was an associate judge, first.

**CB:** Umhm.



**SC:** There was three of us: the Chief Judge, the Chief Judge was Hartley Nicholas and the second associate judge with me was, ah, Rueben Cleaves, whose the Governor now, the Chief.

**CB:** Umhm

**SC:** Yeah, but, I heard a lot of cases, when I was the associate.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** But, ah, and, and the Chief. When I got to be the Chief, was when the Chief became, the Chief Judge became the Governor so he appointed me to be the Chief because I heard a lot of cases where I didn't, I don't recall the other associate doing any cases at all.

**CB:** Umhm.

[00:37:02.22] **SC:** And, they used to call me, " The Hanging Judge."

**CB:** Mmm.

**SC:** But, what I tried to do was when the people came before me, I always tried to help them... by sending them to get help. If they were under any influence like alcohol or drugs, I'd try to get em' treatment, so they wouldn't go back to that kinda stuff.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah. There was one man that used to come to court every fall, every fall. And, he'd do stuff just so I could send him up. Because he didn't have anywhere to go. He didn't have family. Well, he had family, but they never took him in. And, he didn't want to be outside in the winter-time so he always did something every fall so I'd send him up for six months. And he'd come out on good time, which would be, you know, four months or whatever.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** So, I'd try to help that way. And, it, people can go, I don't know if it's open to everybody, but, ah, I've heard other lawyers comment on the things I did, when I was a judge, so, I don't know if it's available to anybody... to look over or whatever. Yeah. But, you could ask, I don't know, you'll see everything that I did.

**CW:** What years was that Shirley?

**SC:** Um, in the eight...

**CW:** Eighties?

**SC:** In the early eighties.

**CB:** Right after the Land Claims?

**SC:** Yeah.

**CW:** Sounds like at the time of the Land Claims Settlement, a lot of things shifted here?

**SC:** Yeah. It's like the federal government, finally, recognized us. And, that's when the money came in for all these other programs. Because, every year, I remember, we used to, ah, every department had to put in, um, a report so, they could do one great big thing on the, on the, at the tribal level to get monies for different departments. And, you had to write out what you needed to run your department in all sorts, all sorts of stuff. We used to do our budgets and stuff, had to account for everything. And, we submitted to the planning department and they'd write a grant or a proposal so take it, send it to the B.I.A. and get monies down here for whatever we needed.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** You know. And, ah, it seems like they don't do that now.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** It, they're just dependent on the money that's coming in for Land Claims and for the, whatever monies that are coming into the tribe.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Like, the, the casino down in Southern, Maine, they send money to us.... But, we don't see it. I don't, we don't know what the governor is, what the governor is doing with it.  
[00:40:22.26] Yeah.... Yeah, so, ah, I, I don't know too much more.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** But if I can think of anything else...

**CW:** *(Laugh)*

**SC:** I'll let you take a break now or something.

**CB:** Okay,

**CW:** Sure.

**CB:** Absolutely.

**SC:** Umhm.

**CB:** You're very helpful. You're very helpful.

**RG:** Before you stop I need you to say the file number for the recording.

**CB:** Oh, sorry about that.

**RG:** and the date, and location.

**CB:** Oh, Okay.

**RG:** Thank you.

**SB:** There's some coffee that we made too, if somebody wants a cup of coffee.

**CW:** Okay, thank you.

**CB:** And, this file number is S-201404- 0400039 and we are in Shirley Cogswell's apartment at Pleasant Point.

### **START OF INTERVIEW PART 2:**

**CB:** This is part two for file number S-2014-0400039, Shirley Cogswell's statement.

**CW:** There seemed to be some energy about the Bureau of Indian Affairs people.

**CB:** Yeah!

**SC:** Oh yeah.

**SB:** *(Laugh)*

**CB:** Yeah, Indian Agents.

**SB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah, I remember, ah, the Indian agent and his secretary would, would come up to the reservation once a month to give out vouchers for food. And, I guess, every family got x amount, which wasn't too, which wasn't much, back then.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Because, way back then, I guess, a loaf of bread costs five cents or something like that.

**CB:** Mmm.

**SC:** So, we never got much. But my grandfather really never, my grandfather never, he said, "I can make more money than what it can give me."

**CW:** Umhm.

**SC:** So...

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** he never really depended on the Indian agent. Maybe, after he got older, he, probably, did and when I left.

**CB:** Yeah.

[00:42:24.05] **SC:** But, he always supported us and stuff. But, the Indian agent up at Indian Island that I know of, cause I had, I was staying with my aunt and I had to get a food order so that I could stay with her so the Indian agent said, "If you have sex with me, I can give you a lot more."

**CW:** Woa.

**SC:** And, he, he had a, he had a hard-on.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And I, I was so disgusted and he was big and I guess he had a, a lot of people... Well, younger women that he did that too. And, I guess...

**CB:** How old were you?

**SC:** Oh, I was, probably eighteen or nineteen.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah. And, he went after the younger ones, you know, young girls.



**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah, he'd ah, say, " I can give you a lot more if I, if you give me, you know, sex." Cause he'd sit there and you could see his stem, or whatever you wanna call it... Yeah, and, ah, there was always something. Um...

**RG:** Do you remember what his name was?

**SC:** Oh god! He was the last Indian agent on their... on Indian Island, anyway. I don't know, he was living, I don't know where he lived, Gilman Falls or Alton or somewhere around there.

**CW:** So, he just came from time to time to do, perform certain...

**SC:** He was there everyday.

**CW:** (*Cough*), Everyday?

**SC:** But, the Indian agent when we, when I was younger used to come from Robbinston to Princeton and I don't know how many times he came here, probably, the same amount. But, ah, he'd come once, ah, once a month. And, ah, Indian Island, there was one there all the time.

[00:44:23.02] **CW:** And, then, when the Land Claims Settlement happened, the Indian agent stopped being...

**SC:** Yeah.

**CW:** regular...

**SC:** Yeah.

**CW:** Here?

**SC:** Yup.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** He was, he was no more.

**CB:** Was one of the names Hiram Hall?

**SC:** Hiram was the one that lived in Robbinston. He was, he was a good guy. I remember. He

tried to help..

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** but, you know, he didn't get much money.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** for food or anything, yeah.

**SB:** He did both reservations?

**SC:** Yeah.

**SB :** And, that woman?

**CB:** Virgie?

**SC:** Yeah, yeah. Virgie did, yeah, his secretary. She was nice woman too.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** They treated us okay. It's the one on Indian Island that I remember, I didn't like too much.

**SC:** Was at, ah.. cause there was a Native American Indian on the reservation at Indian Island that was the Indian agent, for the longest time. She was right on the reservation. She lived right there. And, I don't know if she got sick and that's why they brought somebody else in to do the job. Or what? But, ah...

**CW:** She was a native woman who was employed as a Bureau of Indian Affairs...

**SC:** Umhm.

**CW:** person?

**SC:** Yeah. Yeah. And, ah, that one at Indian Island, oh my god! I could not, I could not stand that man.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** So, what I got, was very little...

**CW:** Hhmm.

**SC:** cause I wasn't going to have to pay for anything.



**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Not in that way anyway...

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah... and, like, right now, I, I live on eight thousand dollars a year.

**CB:** Wow.

**SC:** And, sometimes, I need help. And, I'll ask Social Services and they say, I make too much money... And, when my grandson was living with me, they said, " No, because he's your grandson, we can't help you. You make too much money." Yeah, so... one month...

*(Cough)*

**SC:** I think it was two years ago, I went without food for two weeks and I only ate once a day from what they gave me. Thank god the other woman was still in there. (ahh) The food was, you know, yeah..... So, that was, ah, I ate once a day.

*[00:46:52.28]* And, ah, now, sometimes, she'll cook something okay or make sandwiches.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, if I wanna an extra meal for the night, she'll give it to me. But, other than that, whatever she cooks is horrible.

**CW, SB, SC:** *(laughs)*

**CB:** *(laughs)* Poor Shirley! Oh no!

**CW:** Now, how long did you have your grandchild with you?

**SC:** Ah! He, god almighty! My grandson! He stayed here, but he only slept here about three or four times!

**CW:** Is that right?

*Background noise clacking sounds starts.*

**CB:** Umm.

**CW:** How old is he? Teenager?

**SC:** Yeah. He stayed that boy, he stayed up with, he went to, he went to, ah, his father's because he wanted to be around his sister. Yeah... And, you know, kids when they're teenagers they don't want you to tell them anything!

**CW:** No.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Cause, I'd wake him up in the morning. I'd say, "Honey, are you gonna get up?" Around twelve o'clock. "What for?" And, I'd say, "It's almost, the day's almost gone!"

**CW:** (laugh)

**SC:** And, I'd talk to him, "Come on handsome! Come see your grandma! Get up!" (*Laugh*) And, he'd get up, after awhile. But, teenagers, you know, sometimes, you can't, ah, you can't do enough for the kids. But, I love all my kids and my grandchildren.

**CW:** How many grandchildren do you have?

**SC:** I have about ten.

**CW:** Good for you.

**SC:** Yeah, and two great-grandchildren. Yeah. I like to, I liked to have the younger ones, you know, my two greats...

**CW:** Umhm.

**SC:** But, ah, my daughter, I know, I know she'll tell my grand-daughter not to bring em' because I'm not strong enough to, but I wish I could. You know, have em' to come visit.

**CB:** Umhm.

[00:48:46.09] **SB:** Ah, and they're so cute too, Nakaia and Gia

**SC:** Yeah, they're very beautiful kids.

...I still worry about my kids and stuff that might happen, because, especially this one, she's fighting all the time.

**SB:** (*Laugh*)



**SC:** Fighting for what's right, trying to help people, the community, trying to make it better. And, ah, I worry about her because people are, when they're under the influence of anything could harm that her or her family. Yeah...Yeah. But, I pray every night. I pray for my people to straighten, you know, to straighten out. And, I pray for my kids. But, ah, you know there's, there isn't too much you can do that can prevent anything that's gonna happen. Your gonna go the way you're gonna go.

**SB:** Um. Umhm.

**SC:** But all the corruption that's on both reserves is, you know, is, I don't think anyone will ever be able to fight it. Like right now, where, I've been concerned about the clear-cutting of the...the land. I went through Rt. 216 and I couldn't believe it! Just, when you go by, just a few trees in the front and you can see far back.

**CW:** Wow!

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, the tribe is supposed to be, the people that are cutting the timber from the land, they're supposed to be paying, ah, what's that?

**SB:** Stumpage.

**SC:** Stumpage. And, they're supposed to be doing re-forestation. And, they're not doing that. And some of the people that are on the Governor, on the Council, there's three people down at Township, that I know of, that are on the council and have companies and they're clear-cutting the land. And, this is what is being fought over right now.

**CB:** Umhm.

[00:51:15.18] **SC:** One of em' is my relative. And if her, if his mother was alive, she would go up one side...

**CW:** Umhm, Umhm, Umhm.

**SC:** and down the other. And, tell him that what he's doing is wrong. But she's not here. And, it's, its terrible. You can't do anything. Even with the petitions. If you put petition in and a lot of people sign the petitions to stop these things that are going on, on the reservation. They, ah, the Governor and Council won't accept them. They won't honor the petitions. So, whatever they want to do is okay.

**SB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Because there's not a damn thing we can do about it; to stop it.... Yeah.

**CW:** And, then, with the coming elections, the elections won't be, um, transparent? Or, what will happen?

**SC:** People will be paid off. People, there's always drugs addicts and alcoholics with a handout, election time. There you go. Nothing ever gets done.

**CW:** Hm.

**SB:** That's a big targeted group for politicians.

**CB:** Yeah, I can imagine.

**CW:** But, there's an election coming up soon. Isn't there?

**CB:** Umhm.

**SB:** Umhm. This, ah, this a, October, November. It's October.

**CW:** Lots of candidates?

**SB:** Um, people are kinda holding back on whether, whether or not, they're gonna run, not saying outright because there's so much to the front right now, like with these forestry issues.

**CW:** Umhm. Umhm.

**SB:** Um, that, um, people, ah, are, um afraid to, to, to speak up. You know, cause their, their council right now threatening, saying, "You wait, you know, ah um, I'm gonna be out these loggers," that are also on council. " I'm gonna be on the other side. And those of you that are running, you wait."

**CW:** And you'll get... (inaudible)

**SB:** Yeah.

**SC:** Yeah. And, having, I couldn't even say, who I would recommend to be the Chief.

**CW:** Umhm. In both communities?

**SC:** Yeah.

[00:53:39.02] **RG:** Is it an election year for all...



**SC:** There was this woman, that I wish she would run...

**SB:** For all Passamaquoddy Tribes.

**SC:** she is our representative, right now, in Augusta.

**CW:** Umhm.

**SC:** I told her. I said, "You should run for Chief and try to fix what's wrong."

**CW:** Would she run from Sipayik or from Township? From Sipayik?

**CB:** From Sipayik.

**SB:** Umhm. She was going to.

*(Cough)*

**SC:** I wish, I wish it would go back to the way it was ages ago; one Governor for both reserves.

**CW:** Right, yeah.

**CB:** Um.

**SC:** And, there was one Governor and one Lieutenant Governor and they switched every election time, you know.

**CW:** Umhm. Umhm.

**SC:** And, they'd be six council here and six council there. But, if we had one Governor and one Lieutenant Governor, we wouldn't be spending so much money. We wouldn't be paying out so much money on the pay.

**CW:** The salaries.

**SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** Yeah.

**SC:** Because the Government, the Governor here and the Lieutenant Governor, the amount

they get is, probably, more than the state Governor gets.

**CW:** Wow.

**SB:** It is.

**CW:** You're kidding.

**SC:** Yeah.

**SB:** It's ridiculous.

[00:54:53.06] **CB:** Did you, can I ask another question, Shirley?

**SC:** Umhm.

**CB:** Did you speak Passamaquoddy, when you were little?

**SC:** Yes, I did.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** My grandfather taught me my language and the English language at the same time. He'd say something in Indian and then, something in English.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** So, that's how I learned.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** I don't speak very good English or anything. I hated English when I was growing, in school... So, ah..

**SB:** She dreams in Passamaquoddy.

**SC:** *(Laughs)*

**CW:** In this elderly complex, are there many Passamaquoddy speakers?

**SC:** Um...

**SB:** More here than anywhere, off the...

**CB:** Umhm.



**CW:** Umhm.

**SC:** Umhm, yep. Yeah. Yeah. There's quite a few of the elders that are still speaking the language. You know, I, I forget, sometimes, because when I was younger, I could speak. When I was with the elders,

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** I could speak Indian without stopping.

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** And, I never had to think of a word of what I was going to say...because I knew, you know. When I was growing up, I used to, ah, visit the elders because they gave you so much information on what went on and stuff like this. Not, not gossip, but, you know, what happened to them and stuff. How they lived and um, I enjoyed being with the elders because I learned a lot from them. I never, I very seldom was with kids my own age...Yeah. Because, they, you know, I guess, I felt like an old girl or something.

**CW:** *(Laugh)*

**CB:** Mmm.

**SC:** *(Laugh)*

**CW:** You were a wise soul from the beginning.

**CB:** You were responsible for a lot, at a young age.

**SC:** Yeah, so anyway, I enjoyed being with the elders. And, I loved my language but, and, now, I speak so much English that, sometimes, somebody will ask me, "How do you say this?" And, I'll say, " Oh my god!" I can't think of it right off hand and I'll rattle my brain to try to remember what, how to, how to say something.

**SB:** Sometimes, too, there are things that that wasn't around back in the day so there's...

**CB:** There's no word for it now, right.

**SB:** Sometimes, she'll be speaking fluently with somebody and she has to stop and say something...

**CW:** Right, right, right.

**SB:** in English

**CW:** right, right.

**SB:** Cause there's no other way to describe it.

**CB:** Right, right.

**SC:** Yup, cause my language, um, it, the, what, what you're, what you talk about is more descriptive than...

**CW:** Umhm. Umhm.

**CB:** Right.

**SC:** than, you know, what the name of it is.

**CB:** Yeah.

**SC:** Like the Beaver, you know, it's called *kciqapit* "he had two great teeth."

**CB:** That's what his name is?

**SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** Umhm

**SC:** For the Beaver, *kciqapit*

**CB:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah, so, ah...

[00:57:59.13] **CB:** What is the word for Eagle, I, I....

**SC:** *cihpolakon*

**CB:** *cihpolakon*. That's Right.

**SC:** Yeah, Yeah. But, you know, you lose a lot of that cause the younger generation now, I missed the old times, because there was that extended family and we've lost that now. We've lost it because we, we all took care of each other. When people didn't have food, we all helped each other. And, now, because back then, they didn't even lock the doors.. And, when people came in your house and you guys were eating, they were eating, the person would just go get a



plate and sit down and eat with... yeah. Now, everybody locks their doors, because they were afraid somebody's gonna come in, do you harm or something.

**CW:** Umhm. Umhm.

**SC:** I miss the old days. I miss all the old people. Because all of the knowledge is gone... Almost gone, anyway... Yeah and I'm worried for my own kids. And, I did not want to raise my children on the reservation.

**SB:** I'm glad you did. I just wanna throw that out there.

**CW:** (Laugh)

**SC:** *(Laugh)* Because of what is going on. Drugs and Alcohol are so readily accessible. They give it to each other and stuff like that. All you do, is you step out the door, you know who to go visit. And, everyone knows everyone. So, you know what this one is doing and this one is doing, so... you know where to go when you need stuff. And, that's why I did not like coming back to the reserve. But, my husband said, "Well, if you don't wanna move back to the reserve," cause we lived in Bangor, "if you don't wanna move back to the reserve, you can stay here. I'm taking the kids." And, I was ...I was not gonna leave my kids. Yeah. I hated living on the reserve because of the stigma that you had growing on the, you know, living on the reservation. "The only good Indian is a dead Indian." And, the state, the, even the law, if anything happens, like this guy that got beat up by two white guys he was drinking with. They beat him so bad that he, he was the disabled for the rest of his life. And, he just died not too long ago and these two guys he was drinking with never got arrested.

**CB:** Umhm. I remember hearing about that, when we were in Sipayik in November.

[01:01:09.01] **SC:** Yeah. And, it's sad...

**SB:** Who was he?

**SC:** Hm?

**SB:** Who was he?

**SC:** Joga

**SB:** Oh yeah, yeah, that's right.

**SB:** Yeah.

**SC:** Yeah.

**SB:** That's right.

**SC:** And thing's like that are still going on; killings that never get resolved. If you hurt a non-Indian, you go to prison, like my cousin that was in prison in Massachussetts. He went off the reserve and he was living down there with, I don't know who, but he got arrested. I don't know what the hell, you know. Everywhere you go, every, every, no matter where you go in this country, if they know you're an Indian, they don't give a shit. 'The only good Indian is a dead Indian.' My cousin, they say, hung himself in prison. But, how can you, he hang himself, both his wrists were broken. They were broken. How can he hang himself? Nothing is ever resolved. Nothing... I don't know what else to say. It's just, it's just how I feel.

**CW:** A lot of sadness.

**SC:** I fought all my life to do what was right for my people; tried to help. And, I just should've, it's like, I probably should've just drove off the pier in my vehicle...

**CB:** Noo.

**SC:** Because nothing happens. Nothing happens. No matter what you try to do. Things get swept under the rug or something... Yeup. People stealing, like this guy stole money from the blueberry place that he used to work at. I don't hear him going to prison or anything.

**SB:** They actually paid a two year severance pay, the Tribe and, they knew he was stealing. He got fined for it.

**CW:** Hmm.

[01:03:50.03] **SC:** Yeah. So, nothing ever comes of anything....I think we'd be better off if you, if the Bureau of Indian Affairs came on the reservation and people...

**SB:** No, cause she's fought long and hard so and she, that's why she tells me to stop, but I'm still I, I'm picking up and I'm helping.

**CW:** You got her energy.

**SC:** You feel like there's hope, but I don't feel this way.

**SB:** I love my momma. She's done good.

**SC:** Yeah. I don't know what the situation would look like if the Bureau of Indian Affairs came on the reserve and took over the running of the government. I don't know if there'd be less stealing or more stealing.... Yeah.



**SB:** Well, happy troublemaker then ma, I'd be in jail (laugh)

**SC:** *(Laugh)*

**CW:** *(Laugh)*

**CB:** Then, Stephanie becomes chief...

**SB:** *(Laugh)* Yeah, some people are trying to get me to run for Chief, but ...

**CW:** Yeah, I've, I've seen, I've seen that on the Facebook...

**SB:** Yeah...

**CW:** There's a lot, um...

**SB:** um...

**CW:** encouragement of you.

**SB:** I don't know. I don't think that's something that I could do. I don't know it's hard to beat the system...

**SC:** If you want, if you want power, you run for council.

**SB:** Yeah...

**SC:** Then, you can vote.

[01:05:19.24] **SB:** Yeah and they oversee the buisness and I don't wanna deal with the buisness, like, I wanna be, I wanna be something. I wanna be a people's chief, you know?

**SC:** Yeah. Run for council. That way, you'll have a voice.

**SB:** Um, I'm thinking about it.

**SC:** Yeah.

**CW:** Is council a paid position or no?

**SB:** No. They pay mileage for, to attend meetings.

**SC:** They never used to. Even when I was on school board, it was, it was an honor to be elected to go represent your people and I felt like I didn't have, I didn't have the need to be paid to do my job, to put my voice in there for the people. And, I voted against getting paid, you know, even mileage. And, we didn't. But, when I got off school board, they got it on there awful fast... So, that they could get paid.

**SB:** Umhm.

**SC:** The same with the governor and council, now. The council gets paid for every meeting they go to. It's a, it's a privilege to

**CW:** to serve...

**SC:** to representing your people. Why should you have to get paid? Because a long time ago, people didn't get paid to do that job.

**CW:** Umhm.

**SB:** When Bobby was in office, they did have honorariums. Um, they would pay, um, I think 5,000 dollars a year, if you sat on council or were in elected position. Plus, you would get your fifty dollars a week. I mean, ah, like for the meetings, I guess, if you somebody's employed and they're full time employee, I don't understand why they take that money. But, if somebody wasn't employed and, and then took the fifty dollars to travel to the meeting, then, I, I understand that, you know, with gas prices the way they are, but... You know, they're are some that are making a hundred thousand dollars plus that...

**CB:** Wow. On the...

**SB:** take the fifty dollars...

**CB:** On the council? People make a hundred thousand dollars on the...?

**CW:** No, they're doing that if their income is, on top.

**CB:** Oh, on top, okay.

**SB:** *(Cough)* Right.

[01:07:35.09] **SC:** There's so much corruption going on. It's like, people, like these, the, uh, the little, what the hell ya call them...

**CB:** Elvers.

**SC:** Yeah, those. People, that are working, are the ones that have the damn, uh, license to go elving or whatever you call it. And, the people that need the work can't get a damn license.



**SC:** Either that, or, or they're related to the Chief or some part of the family there. So, there's never really any honest stuff going on. There's always corruption in everything that happens on this reserva..., on all these reservations. I don't know about Indian Island, but I know this one, and, uh, the one down home, Princeton. And, you can't fight that. There was one guy that ran for chief and won and he was pretty good, Melvin Francis. He tried to help his people. He tried to do what was right, but he didn't live long enough. He got into an accident...coming from a meeting.

**SB:** He died on Rt. nine.

**SC:** Yeah. He died on Rt. nine. Yeah. He was trying to help us, in putting money, the elder's money, so it'll grow. And, he was trying to help us do that. But, now, nobody is doing anything for the elders. The only time that the elders are mentioned is when they're trying to get money for the tribe. "Oh, the elders need this and that." But, we don't get shit.

**SB:** Or, when election time comes up, elders and kids got brought up all the time.

**CW:** Umhm.

**SC:** Yeah. And, I don't, I don't like stuff that's going on. That's why I don't, that's why I never wanted to be on the reserve with my kids, but they've grown here. I'm here. I'm stuck here... Yeah.

**SB:** If you're rent wasn't so high, it'd be alright, I think. (Laugh)

**SC:** Well, It's not that bad.

**SB:** No? not no more?

**SC:** Well, it remains the same, but I can deal with that.

**CW:** The rent's not low here?

[01:10:23.29] **SB:** That, I don't think it is, no. Not for what she lives on for a year. It takes up the majority of her monthly income.

**CW:** So, it's more than a quarter of the income.

**SB:** Oh, I would say more than half her income, used to be.

**SC:** And, they don't, they don't do a damn thing, when something is wrong. I've been trying to

get, I told the housing about these windows. They put these new windows in last year. I complained about the other ones. There was snow coming in and there's still snow coming in.

**CW:** Oh no.

**SC:** I said, "Why don't you get something that's expensive, that way you only have to pay for it once. Instead of having to pay for..."

**CB:** Good quality.

**CW:** Instead of losing heat through the windows.

**SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** Right.

**SC:** Yeah. And, I said, "If you buy something that's worth something it's gonna last, ... but, if you buy shit, you're gonna get shit. It's not gonna do anything to improve those situations."

**CW:** So, they put up the plastic, or did you have to do it.

**SC:** I told them to put the plastic up. Yeah.... Yeah.

[01:11:49.12] **CB:** If you feel done, you can be done.

**SC:** Yeah.

**CB:** You feel done Shirley?

**SC:** Umhm.

**CB:** Sure?

**SC:** Umhm, I'm done. I've said what I, I can't remember anything else, like I say, when I have to talk, I don't...

**CB:** If you do remember things, you want to add to your statement, if you wanna change it in any way, you have the chance to do that anytime.

**CB:** Thank you Shirley. I'm gonna turn off the...

**SC:** Okay.