



Special Committee To Prevent The Abuse And Exploitation Of Children Through the Sex Trade

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PREVENT THE ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION
OF CHILDREN THROUGH THE SEX TRADE
2000**

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March 7, 2000

The committee met at 9 a.m.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Good morning, everyone. We welcome you here today to the special committee that was formed to Prevent The Abuse And Exploitation Of Children Through the Sex Trade. We are focusing predominantly on our cities right now but certainly it's happening throughout the province in different ways.

And so the sexual abuse of children is our concern and we certainly hope that with all of the wise counsel of so many good people throughout the province that we'll be able to help to alleviate the situation and to help our children lead wholesome lives.

This morning, before we get into our committee meetings, I want to welcome of course all committee members again, and all guests and staff of the legislature. And we're very fortunate this morning to have Elder Lily Daniels with us. And the Aboriginal people play a great role in Saskatchewan's culture and history, and their children are very, very much valued in my eyes and I know in the eyes of people of Saskatchewan.

And so we've invited Elder Daniels to come to — she's from the Kawacatoose First Nations — and we've asked her to come to do an opening prayer for the committee. It's most appropriate that this comes from a member of our Aboriginal community and it's most appropriate that it comes from a woman.

And so, Elder Daniels, if you could please do us the grace of an opening prayer.

Ms. Daniels: — Pardon?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — If you could please do an opening prayer for us right now.

Ms. Daniels: — I still can't hear you . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Okay. You can just sit; I don't want to be too mean to everybody. You're going to have a rough day.

I'm very honoured to be here and thank everybody that welcomed me. I'm holding this tobacco here is . . . I'll be praying for everybody. Sometimes I always know who's having a rough time. Because when I go home tonight, sometimes I suffer for the ones that are having hard times at home.

I know nobody's perfect but your men today need a lot of prayer. Tomorrow is International Women's Day, and I often wondered if there's any men's day. That's why you need prayer because every day is your day.

So I want to say a prayer for everybody so that you'll be able to carry on.

And today I hope everybody had a good breakfast because if you don't think of yourself in the morning when you have a big job, you'll always come down, you'll always feel ugly inside, you can't carry on with your work. And I'm very concerned about a lot of people because I went through all that in my days of work, work, work, that I never go to work with an empty

stomach because you have to think of it. I know a lot of the women, they think of their makeup before they think of their breakfast. They don't even think of their husbands. They don't even make breakfast with them any more.

So this is why . . . Tomorrow is International Women's Day and I'll be doing a lot of praying, and I have a performance to celebrate the Women's Day tomorrow.

So you men are never forgotten but you're a big help with the babies. So thank you. You're all very welcome to come into my prayers and help you feel the love better, that I care about everybody as my white brothers and sisters. Thank you.

Okay, I'll say my prayer now:

Oh great spirit, look down at everybody that are gathered in my circle today. Give them the strength to carry on to keep going in their heavy work and sleep and play. Give them good health to keep going, and help the men to carry on as husbands, grandfathers, the grandparents, grandmothers. And most of all our children that are suffering out there. Help them not to suffer so much. And the ones that are sick in the hospital, help them to get well. And bless everyone again that are gathered here. Amen.

And thank you very much. Thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — It's my . . . I'm sorry, what were you going to say?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I was just going to say that was very heartwarming. A good way to start our committee presentations.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — It was. I've now got the pleasure of welcoming Mayor Doug Archer who I know has had a long-time interest in this issue. And, Doug, we're pleased to be opening the public hearings portion of our deliberations here in Regina and we're very happy to have you here this morning. And so Mayor Archer is going to bring some welcoming remarks for our committee members.

Mayor D. Archer: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Prebble, and Ms. Julé — both of whom I've had a chance to meet on previous occasions to talk about this issue — members of the special committee, and ladies and gentlemen.

I'm pleased to have a chance to welcome you to Regina and to say a few words if I might on behalf of the city as you enter into the public presentation portion of your deliberations.

I know that this is an extremely challenging task that you have been assigned to address collectively. And I'm heartened by the fact that you've chosen an all-party approach to dealing with this, because it suggests to me that perhaps there's an opportunity to move forward in this on a common goal of trying to address the issue of the sexual abuse of children on the street.

We have, as a community, been working on this issue for a number of years and I'm hopeful that perhaps some of the work

that we've done will be helpful to you. Certainly it was a challenge to us when we got started to find our way through the variety of issues that are present. And in fact it took us a couple of years of work with over 40 different organizations in the city that address one part or another part of this issue at the community level.

I think we've been well served by that process, of listening to what people have to say. Not that one person has all the information. That's the very interesting part of the process that we went through, is that we were able to, through our Crime Prevention Commission, listen to what people had to say and pull together the elements into what we think is a fairly comprehensive strategy that addresses the major issues. And I understand that Terry Mountjoy will be outlining our five-part strategy that has been put in place in the city.

I should emphasize that while we have the strategy in place, we don't have the funding for the various elements of that strategy. And so I guess if we have what we would think is an advantage, is we know where the funding is, but we also know where the funding isn't. And those are perhaps some of the challenges that we look at in our five-part strategy.

That strategy is quite flexible. It can be applied to any community to analyze needs and available resources on the one hand, but also gaps that may exist on the other. And it's not presumptive in the sense that we think that every community has the same kind of need in any given part of the strategy. In fact some communities may have greater needs in one part or another and fewer needs in some other places, or they may be heavy in all five parts. And really a community can use that strategy to look within itself and see how it can prepare its own checklist on how it's doing or not doing and whether it needs to do more for that matter.

I guess one of the things that we found as we went through this process of trying to in some measure bring some order to what seemed to be a large amount of information and not a lot of coherence is that we all needed to change our attitudes a little bit. I guess it's typical that we all know what we know and we want to impart what we know to everybody else so that they can do the things that we think they should be doing.

I think one of the secrets that we discovered is you have to step back a bit and say, well we have these notions that we believe to be true, but let's test them with the discussion with other people and be open to coming to reasonable conclusions. Because the job has to be done. And I don't think there's a lot of room for trying to be better or worse than anybody else, but just trying to arrive at conclusions that serve the needs of children.

So I think that's going to be one of the challenges. I know that each of you who are serving on the committee are sincere in wanting to address the problems, but sincerity in and of itself is only as good as your ears might allow your sincerity to be. And I urge you to listen to what people have to say at your public meetings.

We found that there were a few more things that came out of our review. One conclusion is that we have to do better with

what we are spending right now. There is a significant commitment of resources. It's not necessarily organized in a way that will provide the benefit to the children who are being sexually abused on the street. And I guess that's where I always start with. I don't start with the idea that you got to spend more. I start with the idea of doing what you can with what you got and see if you can arrive at your needed solutions.

But I have been convinced that we need to not only do better with what we now spend, but I am a firm believer that we have to spend more money in some areas that aren't being addressed. The long-term healing area of our strategy is one that simply hasn't been looked at adequately.

And I would put it within this context — the needs of children to not only . . . who are thinking of leaving the street environment are exceptionally difficult to address in two areas. One area is drug and alcohol rehabilitation — can't throw the kids into the adult environment and think that somehow we're going to be able to address that. And put this together with the fact that they are young people, some of them extremely young, and you can't just rip them out of their family home and send them off to Calder Centre in Saskatoon. That is not going to be the solution.

So that's one part of the environment. The other part of the environment is the family pimp phenomenon, which really throws us all into a quandary, to how to . . . When you put the child back into the environment which put the child on the street, then it's extremely frustrating to think that you're not going to go anywhere.

On the other hand, do you doubly victimize the child by pulling that child away from the family support which is so necessary? So clearly there's another challenge there in terms of how to engage not only in rehabilitation for the child but rehabilitation within the family context.

I just throw those out as thoughts for your consideration as you go forward with your public presentations, and I certainly wish you well in your deliberations. And we are extremely pleased that in fact the legislature has chosen to establish an all-party committee with people who are sincerely interested in making some progress on this. And we will work as best we can as a city and as a community to help you address this very difficult problem.

If I had one thing that is bothersome, I think languagism is important. And I find the word "sex trade" very difficult to accept personally, to tell you the truth. I don't think of this as a trade; I think it's an abuse of people, certainly of children — of sexual abuse. But I think it's abuse of women as well and I just provide that one caution as well, and I don't know if it's shared by others.

But I'm going to have to leave after these remarks as well, because the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) conference is on and I'm sure there is going to be some very interesting debate at the SARM conference as well.

But I wish you well in your deliberations and thank you for

giving me a chance to give you some thoughts in the form of greetings as you begin your deliberations.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Well thank you, Mayor Archer, for coming. We appreciate hearing from you and we also appreciate the work that the city of Regina, through your crime prevention unit, has done. And I'm hoping that the committee members can get a copy of the last report of the Crime Prevention Commission. I think it would be very helpful to them. So if you could see to it that we have that document, it would be wonderful. It will be coming, I imagine.

Okay, thank you very, very much for coming.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you, Doug.

We're now going to have just a very short introductory presentation on the work of the committee for those present who may not be familiar with the mandate of the committee and the members of the committee. And we have a short Power Point presentation which will help give those of you who are new to these proceedings a sense of the mandate and the individuals involved. And I'll turn it over to Arlene to start this process.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you. Well the special committee was formed to prevent the abuse and exploitation of children through the sex trade. It is a legislative committee. The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan formed the committee and is working on the committee to effect some things that we need to change in the province in order to help our children who are suffering on the streets.

The members of the committee are myself — my name is Arlene Julé. I'm the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) from Humboldt and I am one of two Co-Chairs. And the other Co-Chair that we have is sitting beside me, is Mr. Peter Prebble. He's the MLA from Saskatoon Greystone. And we have Ms. June Draude — June is the MLA from Kelvington-Wadena. And Mr. Ron Harper is the MLA from Regina Northeast — Ron is sitting just over here. And we have also Ms. Carolyn Jones, MLA from Saskatoon Meewasin. Mr. Don Toth, he's the MLA from Moosomin, Saskatchewan — and Don is just sitting over on this side of the table. And we have Mr. Kevin Yates, MLA from Regina Dewdney.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I just want to introduce the staff members to the committee. Margaret Woods is our Clerk. Margaret, do you want to stand up? Margaret is Clerk to the committee. And Randy Pritchard is our technical adviser.

And I'd like to review some of the key principles that the committee is focusing on as it begins its work. One is the principle that every child is everyone's responsibility, so as a community we are responsible for all the children in our community. And each of us have a personal responsibility with respect to ensuring their safety.

The second principle is that the involvement of children in the sex trade constitutes child abuse. The involvement of children in the sex trade has often been referred to as child prostitution. Our committee very consciously is not using that terminology.

The term prostitution implies somehow that children have a choice in terms of their involvement. And all members of our committee are very clear about the fact that this is exploitation of children — abuse of children. And that's our focus. And our purpose of course is zero tolerance in this respect. We want to stop completely the abuse and exploitation of children in the sex trade.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Some of the committee tasks are to address and make recommendations to stop the abuse and exploitation of children through the sex trade within Saskatchewan. We are looking forward to these recommendations coming through because there is a definite necessity to have some absolutes happen as far as stopping the abuse of our children on the streets.

The committee will consider, and they will report on, consultations with stakeholders — stakeholders that have an interest in this issue. And we will seek their input on the next steps to take.

The strategies employed by other jurisdictions and the effectiveness of their approach. What that refers to is we have decided to look at Alberta and Manitoba, our neighbour provinces, and to look at what kind of things that they have done there to address this issue, to see what has been very effective and helpful and what hasn't and to learn from them, and from that to maybe take what we can from their approaches and adapt them to what Saskatchewan will need to do.

The committee will also consider and report on reasons why the children end up on the street in the first place — what kind of factors, or what kind of background factors, I guess, would be the reason that children end up on the street in the first place. So we need to look at all those things in order to look at the bigger picture and to hopefully stop this kind of situation from happening.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — In terms of the public hearing process, one of our primary objectives as a committee is to listen to the views and the concerns of all Saskatchewan residents on this issue. Anyone who has views and concerns on this issue is welcome to come forward and appear before our committee.

We have a particular interest in hearing from youth who have been impacted by this issue or youth who have had the unfortunate experience of being abused, sexually abused on the street.

We're also, while our consultations are going to include the three major urban centres, Saskatoon and Regina and Prince Albert, we're also hoping to hold hearings in some of the smaller communities around the province. We're hoping to go to Yorkton, to North Battleford, to La Ronge.

And we've extended invitations to all municipalities with a population of over 5,000 through their city councils to contact us if the councils wish to have the committee come to their community to hold hearings. So we're hoping to hold hearings in several other centres around the province as well.

And we're anxious to receive your input so we hope that you'll visit our web site and . . . Randy, unfortunately I can't read what

the web site information is there. Maybe you can share that with us right now.

Mr. Pritchard: — Basically it's www.legassembly.sk.ca/aecc. So you can still get at it if you go into www.legassembly.sk.ca. That's the main Legislative Assembly web site and then we have a web site that's linked to this web site.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Good. Thank you, Randy.

So please, if you are not making a presentation today but you have concerns or suggestions, get in touch with any one of the members of the committee or get in touch with Randy either by phone or letter or e-mail. Thank you, Randy, for taking us . . . for looking after the technical side of this.

I think we're now . . . we'll put the lights back on and we're ready to enter into the formal part of the hearing process this morning. And, Arlene, I'll turn it over to you to welcome Terry.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes, the committee is very fortunate to have Mr. Terry Mountjoy with us. Terry is the manager of social development for the city of Regina. And I talked with Terry on the phone about a year and a half ago discussing this whole issue and how we need to look into it. Terry is . . . he also provides administrative support for the Regina Crime Prevention Commission, so we're looking forward to his knowledge and his expertise and certainly his advice in this area for the committee.

Terry you have . . . there's a time sort of allotment from 9:15 to 10:00, so you know we're hoping to hear everything that you have to present, but we probably will need about 15 to 20 minutes for questions after, if you could offer that time for us.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Arlene, it's basically 9:30 right now so I think you should basically say to Terry that he's got till 10:15.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay, Peter was just saying we're a bit behind, Terry, so . . . it's 9:30 right now.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Terry, we're going to take the full three-quarters of an hour, so please feel that you've got until 10:15. But if you could maybe limit your presentation to about 25 minutes and that would give us about 20 minutes for questions and discussion with you — if that's going to work for you.

Mr. Mountjoy: — Sure, I spent part of my life as an adult educator and orchestrating agendas, and so I'm quite familiar with the need to be able to compress or expand to fit all time spots.

Thank you for the opportunity to present. This is quite difficult actually for me because seven years ago when I joined the city of Regina in the Crime Prevention Commission, the first issue that the Crime Prevention Commission identified was what we called child prostitution at that point in time. And so I've learned a lot about this issue that I never wanted to know.

So in keeping with the principle that all children are our

responsibilities, I guess I'm one of those people who would rather not be known as someone who knows something about the issue. I should tell you that it's very difficult to drive around north central with my dark Volvo because I'm worried about who might see me and might report me to Sergeant Coffey and crew. So it sort of hampers your style about driving around your community.

I want to give you a little overview and then the commission's role and mandate and then spend a little bit of time on the five-part strategy. But I also want to give you a flavour — although I know that Delora and Christine will be able to give you some more details in their presentations along with their staff — of the kinds of kids that we're dealing with. Because one of the things that I learned in this process is that all my assumptions about street kids and prostitution in general got tossed out the window very quickly in my research on this. So I want to describe a little bit of how we've categorized the kids just so to help us with our policy thinking on these issues.

In 1995 the commission was established. And as I said, one of their first priorities, their first issue was, although we called it street prostitution at the time, from the very beginning the Regina Crime Prevention Commission identified this as child abuse. And there was never any discussion at all about anything that these children were, anything but victims.

So we've changed our language a bit now. Our committee is now the Sexual Abuse of Children through Prostitution. We've struggled as everybody else has on the terminology, and we might debate whether or not sex trade or whatever, is appropriate. However, what is quite clear and has been quite clear throughout everything, all our community discussions, etc., is that these kids are victimized — multiple victimized from the very beginning.

In 1996 in our annual report we identified our major issue and we talked a little bit about the issue in Regina. And we quoted a profile of Amber who is a 12-year-old First Nation prostitute. After gaining her trust, we the street workers — this is a testimonial from our needle exchange program — were able to learn parts of her history.

We learned that Amber came from a family of six children. She is the second eldest. Her mother who is a single parent, and her eldest sister who is 14, are both prostitutes and injection drug users. Many times Amber is the sole caregiver to her four younger siblings.

One evening Amber approached us and asked specifically for chocolate flavoured condoms. When asked why, she replied that she only does blow jobs and she really needed some money that night.

We saw Amber later that same evening pulling two other siblings in a wagon. We stopped her at the needle exchange van and she told us that she'd made \$20 from working and that she was now taking her brother and two sisters to the 7-11 to buy milk, a small bag of diapers, and a treat.

So that's sort of the intro for our analysis. We also talked a little bit about some issues.

We've had in the city, prior to 1995, probably two decades of community organizations, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, talking about the issues. One of the main jobs I guess of the Crime Prevention Commission was to focus some of that discussion and to legitimize those comments.

And so the commission we found . . . in 1997 in the spring we had a very large public meeting with about 90 representatives of organizations and residents of north central, and there were an awful lot of angry people there. But there was absolutely no consensus on what to do. There was tremendous consensus that this was disgusting, that something had to be done, that there had to be some process put in place here, but there was absolutely no consensus.

And that was the time when the Crime Prevention Commission in Regina said our major contribution to this issue is to try to create a strategy that brought those people together into a coherent kind of approach to it so that we weren't spending our time as community organizations competing with each other and bashing each other over the heads with my way is better than your way.

So that's a really important feature of the Regina Crime Prevention Commission's five-part strategy, was that we were looking for a strategy that was inclusive. And as I was writing that strategy, one of the things that my tests, my litmus test was, do I leave anybody out? Has anybody been identified that is interested in doing something about that issue that cannot live with our strategy? And we then tested that out by taking it to everybody under the sun — from prosecutors to former street workers to whomever.

And it's stood the test pretty well. Although as the mayor indicated in his opening remarks, we identified last fall that we need a sixth leg of the five-part strategy — and that is my family, my pimp.

And it's a really, really difficult, difficult issue to deal with conceptually. It was very easy when you're dealing with pimps as those people from another city who come in and have the bevy of women who they move from place to place, and they're just disgusting people. But it's a lot different when it's your stepfather or your older sister or whatever.

And so that's one of the things that we're grappling with, is how do we define and create a sixth part of our strategy.

One of the key parts of our strategy is that each part is considered essential, necessary, but none is sufficient in itself to do the job. So education of kids and johns and professionals dealing with kids involved in the street — the educational part of our strategy is essential, however just by itself it's not going to do the trick. We need the other pieces of it. And so we're very much interested in encouraging people to take on each of these five parts.

In the fall of 1997, we announced with the then minister of Justice and the then minister of Social Services in a public announcement at Scott Collegiate in north central — for those of you who are not from Regina, the primary place of action for this issue is north central; one community in our . . . although

there are other elements in other parts, but the vast majority is in north central — and because we saw immediately that, included in our strategy had to be the provincial government and the departments that are directly involved with this.

So we've had as part of our partnership not only the community organizations, not only the chamber of commerce, not only the health district and the needle exchange program and places like that, but we've also had Department of Justice and Department of Social Services as essential parts of our . . . And frankly one of the difficulties is in the Department of Justice — for instance, since they don't have regional services other than probation and prosecution — is how do you get people to actually serve on your committees and within that whereas DSS (Department of Social Services), of course, has a regional office and we've worked very, very closely with them.

Just for the Regina situation, our estimate is 300 kids involved. We take that from the needle exchange program which has addresses for people who are coming in and exchanging needles. Their estimate is that 75 per cent of the people involved with needle exchange are involved with prostitution of some sort. Their numbers are . . . they have 400 people on their list under the age of 19. So three-quarters of that makes 300.

Now those figures have been challenged by other people, and partly, because I think that there's a whole bunch of kids that are very, very part-timers. And I'll just describe in a second some research that we did when we were starting to put on the program that Delora Parisian manages, that we did some research at the beginning of that and we actually did a whole bunch of interviews with kids and found four different kinds of kids on the street.

What's really important is that the kids aren't all the same and what works for one will not work for another. The four types of children that we identified were the . . . what I should call casual. These are kids who are going to school, have support from their families, get along with their families, are sort of voyeurs. They have some friends that sort of . . . they sort of tag along with; it's sort of exotic, you know, and they just sort of hang around.

In the summertime in north central, one of the issues is that you can't tell the kids on the street playing from the kids on the street working. You know, and one of the complaints that the neighbourhood has, of course, is that if you are not involved with prostitution you can't walk down the streets without being harassed because you have people driving by wanting to pick you up. And that's a complaint not only of children, but also of adult women in the neighbourhood as well.

The second group of people are more regular, maybe once every week, once every two weeks; casual drug use, soft drug use, primarily; maybe showing some of the risk factors such as maybe having trouble at school but still in school; maybe fighting a little bit with their parents but they're still at home, and the parents would . . . are not happy about the fact that these kids might be on the street.

The third group of kids in Regina are the kids who are on the stroll everyday and there's probably a maximum of 50 of these

and — although Christine and Delora probably have better numbers than I have at this stage — but these are the kids that have been abused since they were babies; that they are not in school or, if they're in school, they rarely attend; they're intravenous drug users; they're supporting their own habits plus the habits of their family members. These are the ones that the mayor was talking about in terms of the long-term healing issue is paramount. These kids identify with their johns. They see themselves as workers. So that's the third group of kids.

The fourth group of kids is a . . . I don't know Saskatoon and P.A. (Prince Albert) very well, but because of the proximity of many of the First Nations, we have a group of kids that come in once a month for three days to a week, earn a couple of thousand dollars, and then go back home. And so they . . . So for us one of the areas that we haven't been successfully active in yet is how do we involve the First Nations leadership of those reserves because obviously whatever we do in the city must be complemented by something happening on . . . in the First Nations themselves.

The five-part strategy itself — I rotate them because I don't want to give the impression that you always start with education and end up with long-term healing — but today on the list I wrote down was the first part is education, public education, and we see three subgroups here.

There are a number of men who abuse children who don't realize they're committing a criminal offence — you know, it's amazing. One of the dysfunctions that I think we had . . . When I grew up in rural Saskatchewan, we had a thing called statutory rape and it was quite clear that if you were involved sexually with somebody under the age of . . . a minor, that that was statutory rape and it was quite clear for men at that point. Now they're not sure.

And so part of our objective is that we must get to the service clubs and we must get to those middle class men who are abusing the kids and say to them: this is not okay; this is clearly abuse. It's a criminal offence. It's punishable, you know, so let's understand this. And let's make this quite clear that this is not just simply a smaller form of prostitution.

The second education area that we identified were the professionals dealing with the kids. What we found were nurses, teachers, social workers didn't have any tools and don't have very good tools to deal with kids who are involved with prostitution. They can deal with some of the physical pieces and they can deal with some of the social work pieces. But the sexual abuse piece and what that does to the heads of kids, nobody has tools to deal with that.

And one of the things we've found when the ACCAR (Action Committee for Children at Risk) program — which you'll hear more about — came into . . . is that people came to us and said, can you tell us how we can better deliver services because we know the kids in our family support groups or whatever are on the street.

The third group we need to deal with are the kids themselves — the six-year-olds, the five-year-olds, the kids who are about to go or are just starting in this stage one or the voyeur stage. You

know, we need to do some education there through the school systems, etc. So that's the education piece.

The second piece is demand reduction, and that's how do you get the number of men to zero. And the strategies there essentially are harassment, public denunciation. We've had examples where the north central police officers have written down licence plates and then gone and knocked on the door in south Regina and said: excuse me, sir, but we noticed that you were driving around north central and you didn't seem to have anything to do, and there's no charges being laid but we know that you're there and we have strong suspicions of why.

We've had three applications I know that the North Central Community Society has made for about \$50,000 — that they could then do this on a systemic way with video taping, photographs, etc. — that we could identify these people and let them know that they're known. None of those applications have been funded to date.

The third part of the strategy is safety service. Nobody wants the kids on the street. That public meeting I talked about in April '97, it was universal — everybody in that room wanted the kids off the street. Nobody was prepared to say that these kids should be there.

But at the same time there are some very, very real safety issues that these kids deal with — there's the sexual-transmitted diseases, there's the AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), there's the physical abuse, there's the mental abuse, there's the emotional abuse; there's all kinds of abuses that you can imagine. And these safety services must be a part. And so we've got a number of agencies in Regina who are part of that safety services and they include the mobile crisis, they include the police, they include an RV (recreational vehicle) that we now have on the street. We have the "love bus" which is a Christian school bus for coffee and whatnot. So there's a number of people who are there providing safety services, including the bad date sheets and the condoms, etc.

By the way, I've left packages for you that have much of this. And one of the things I included in there was the update that we did for the commission in December, which identifies all of the organizations involved with different parts of the strategies.

I also included in there the copies of the posters that we have to supplement the provincial posters. We have . . . Actually I should be doing my show and tell here since the posters actually reflect . . . So these are posters that we got permission from Vancouver to use. They're actually real photographs in black and white.

And this one — he's the criminal in this transaction to clearly say that, men, that this is this. She lives, some don't — this is the safety piece of a child actually. She's been beaten. She believed his promise of glamour and love. And so here's the isolation of a very young child — she's only 12 and she's not the youngest.

So even though these are Vancouver-based photographs, we found that they had a huge degree of resonance, and we've had excellent distribution of that. We've now got over 5,000 of

these posters up in Regina, and what we have included are the phone numbers so that people can phone to say, you know, here's mobile crisis or here's the police.

Safety services was number three. Number four is short-term interventions. How do we interface with these kids and start the process of getting them to leave the street? We haven't found the right terminology for this. I call it recruiting them off the street. You know they were recruited on to the street, and so now we need to recruit them off the street.

And the short-term intervention is done within the context of their circumstances that they're in. And that's basically . . . Delora will speak at great length on that, I hope.

And the final piece, the final, is the long-term healing. These kids have been abused for anywhere from 10 to 15 years. Of all the abuse that you can . . . All the different kinds of abuse that you can imagine. When we did a . . . we interviewed 25 of these kids. I can't find it really quickly so I'll just summarize it.

Every single one of the kids that we talked to had been involved with the Department of Social Services in at least three ways. Often SAP (Saskatchewan Assistance Plan), family support, young offenders, child protection — you know any of those — that these kids that we interviewed were very well-known by the systems.

Secondly, they all had involvement — these were all long-term or the level 3 kids — they all had active involvement of their families in supporting them. Matter of fact, some of them said that we'd have to go out on the street, otherwise we'll get beaten — if we don't bring X number of dollars home tonight — by their family. So that was the second piece.

The third piece was they were almost all First Nations. I was surprised that . . . like I knew it was a quote "Aboriginal victimization" but there were far fewer Metis people involved than I had originally thought. So they're there, their profile.

The final point that I want to make before opening up for questions is 300 people are a lot of kids. On the other hand, when you consider the number of kids in Regina between the ages of 8 and 18, 300 is actually pretty small.

There's an awful lot of kids in our city who have all the at-risk symptoms. You know, poor, single parent, you know, go down the list of risk factors that we know that kids are at risk of either getting into trouble or being abused, but there's 300 of them only that are in this situation.

So I think that it's important to remember that when we're talking about these numbers, that this is not something that . . . an issue that we have to manage. Car thefts — we have 4,000; we may have to manage that. Although, you know, this is one that we can eliminate. And it just requires, we think, to be able to pull the consensus together and a few resources together to actually deal with it.

But it's not going to be . . . we're not going to be able to eliminate it in six months. As I said, these kids have been abused for 10 years, so it's going to take a long time to go

through that healing for those who need that.

I'll leave it at that. The other things in your package — we have the five-part strategy, we've got our original paper which was doing something about it, a strategy to reduce child prostitution in Regina. And we've also got some, as I said, the posters for you.

And I wish you well.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you. Thank you very much, Terry. Terry, I'm going to turn the questioning over to committee members. I just wanted to make one comment about the numbers. The 300 to me seems to be quite severe. In a city like Edmonton, there are 200 and the population is much larger.

However, more than that, I think numbers don't count. When one child is living a life of slavery through this sort of thing, that's too many. Everyone deserves to have a life of joy and dignity and each person is very special, and so I think that when we look at this number, we must remember that, that you know, numbers don't matter. No one deserves to be abused.

And I think the other thing that's important for me to say is that in direct proportion this is not good news. This sounds to me like one in every 600 people, not children, but one in every 600 people in Regina is being abused through this sort of exploitation and slavery and that alarms me.

So I thank you so much and I know that it is, like you say, I believe it is manageable, but it is incumbent upon us as legislators and the people of this province, the adults of this province to see that we engage some sort of strategies here. And if it does take more money for safe houses or whatever it is to have a long-term healing treatment, then we must look at that too. And I guess that is certainly up to recommendations that come from people that present to this committee. But it's something that, it's very important because our children are important and we care about protecting them.

So I'm going to just turn this over to the committee. Mr. Prebble, would you like to start with any questions.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Yes, yes. Thanks, Arlene. Terry, I want to thank you for your presentation and I think the five-point strategy is a useful starting point for us in terms of having some structure by which we look at grouping solutions that we might, you know, ultimately recommend to the legislature. So I thank you for that.

I want to focus in on the demand reduction side of . . . element of the strategy and just ask you if you could elaborate both on strategies that you've begun to use in Regina that seem to work on the demand reduction side. You were making reference to, for instance, some of the work that police officers had done in terms of following up on vehicles and following up on drivers of vehicles that were seen in your stroll areas.

Could you make some recommendations to the committee on what you think the province should be supporting at the local level that would enhance demand reduction activities? In other words what could we do to greatly reduce the number of johns

who are out on the stroll seeking sexual contact with children?

Mr. Mountjoy: — Well I don't think that anybody has the answer and it really depends on the head of them. Our evidence suggests that we don't have very many sort of classical pedophiles involved with the children. And partly that's because typically we are told that if a person is a hard-core pedophile — and all the research that I've read suggests that these people are not curable — but they don't deal with it through prostitution, they deal with it through daycares and other places. Like they will seek their victims in other ways, other than prostitution.

So if that's the case then we're dealing with a misguided, if you wish, group of people who think it's okay because they just think it's part of the prostitution continuum and so partly that would be the education.

We have a johns school that the Indian Metis Christian Fellowship runs and their evaluation after their first 80 people through that . . . And our policy in Regina as in elsewhere is that it's only through adult prostitution that you get into the johns school. Like we have a zero tolerance for the abuse of kids so that if somebody is charged with dealing with children that they are prosecuted under the . . . to the full letter of the law.

But the recidivism rate claimed by the Indian Metis Christian Fellowship is zero. That of the 80 people who have been charged for soliciting in the adult world, none of them have re-offended up to two years later. And now that's not uncommon because the stats that we were given said that 80 per cent of the people charged in the first place don't re-offend. So it's almost as if the pattern that is there is that these people get caught and they realize it's wrong and they stop.

Now I don't know if I completely believe that, you know, but if that's the case then there is, just by having some vigilance as opposed to vigilante, but actually somebody there taking numbers, getting the phone call or the letter from the police saying we saw you driving around here or we know that you've been seen on the stroll and we saw you pick up, you know, a child, and dah dah dah — that may be sufficient.

The police warn us however, that there's some people seem to be more driven about this and so they're really quite concerned about the safety of residents undertaking these activities. Now the residents are quite prepared to walk the streets and take the streets back, and so they are now walking in groups of two's and three's.

The other thing that's happened is that with the community police station being located in north central, in Albert Scott Community Centre, we've really noticed since they've opened up — and they open up until 8 o'clock at night — that the kids aren't on the street and the people aren't driving the stroll nearly as much during the day. So it's only after the police go home at 8 o'clock that, you know, that it starts.

So it may be that all we need to do part of this is to create the vigilance to do that. The north central application, North Central Community Society actually had a retired police officer

that was going to create or coordinate this and coordinate the residents' participation in that. So that might be part of it.

The other issue of course is that the police complain that they can't videotape. That if they videotape a transaction, that the evidence is tossed out. Now you or I as public can videotape a transaction, and that's okay, you know. So it seems to me that there may be some work to be done at the legislative level to say on the evidence piece because one of the frustrations that everybody has is, how do you get convictions?

You know, like the police can't sting it because you don't have very many female police officers that look 12, you know. And you obviously cannot use a minor as a . . . you know, in that kind of process. So you can't sort of set up a . . . So we need to do some work on that side of things I think as well.

There was another idea floating in my mind but it's gone now.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thanks, Terry. I want to pass it on to other members of the committee to be able to ask questions. Thanks for that response.

Mr. Toth: — Yes, Terry. You talked about education. And I think you also mentioned there were four different types of prostitutes. The last two, I think, don't attend a lot of school. How do we deal with the education process?

And from what I gather, there's some education through the school network about prostitution, about some of the problems that children could find themselves in if they seek this type of activity. Where they're attending school very little, what form are you taking to try and educate children to the consequences of this type of activity?

Mr. Mountjoy: — Well my view is that when you get to level threes, it's away beyond education. We're now really into the healing piece. Because the interviews that we did with level three kids, they know exactly what's going on. They're the ones, after all, getting beaten up twice a week and beating other people up and whatnot. So that, I don't consider preventative education. That we . . . you have to find the vehicles to get them into healing.

The process that we've used is to use the ACCAR program and the safety services program to actually identify kids. And as soon as we see them in a process whereby we may be able to move them off the street by providing the necessary supports to them and their family, then that's what we'll do.

The whole issue of kids who are hard core is very, very difficult because they don't want to leave. They think they've got a good thing. They can certainly make a lot more money this way than any other thing that somebody could offer them because they don't have education and whatnot.

So from an education point of view, we see it as once the kids are involved, that's no longer education. We have to get them before then. And the rest of it is healing of some sort.

Mr. Toth: — Okay, I appreciate that. A second comment is how do we deal with the individual? I think you mentioned —

and I forget the name of the person when you first began your presentation — a 12-year-old girl providing for her siblings. And it seemed to me from the comments, that this individual I guess seemed, because her older sister and her mother were involved in prostitution, saw this as the only means of putting food on the table.

Now I have a hard time understanding that. Are we failing them as a result of the fact through Social Services we should have a means . . . We do have a mechanism of actually helping people, but obviously at some point we're failing that individual or that family. And how do we address that concern?

Mr. Mountjoy: — Well there's no immediate . . . the poverty rates for Aboriginal people in Regina according to the '96 census is over 60 per cent. So we're 60 per cent of the Aboriginal people are below the low income cut-off line of StatsCanada. That's obviously considerably . . . that's not a high; that's like 12 or \$13,000 a year for a single person, you know. So this is not a very flush kind of thing.

Our largest increase of people in the census last year . . . between '91 and '96 was in under \$10,000 a year family income, you know. Unemployment rates are just unbelievable.

So I was listening to Lloyd Martel do a presentation from FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations) the other day, and he says that we have to stop looking at unemployment rates and look at employment rates. And if you have 25 per cent of your adult Aboriginal people employed, guess what — 75 per cent are not. And we know that employment income still represents, regardless of what kind of transfer payments we have, represents 80 or 90 per cent of family income.

So the answer is jobs. Employment opportunity and all the things that that entails including the training of people. What do you do with somebody who is multiple generation grade 4? You know, you put those programs in place, I'm afraid.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you. We are approaching 10 minutes after 10, and we have about 5 to 6 minutes. We'll go on with questions for that length of time. So I'll ask committee members to limit your questions to two please, and even one . . . I guess one at this point. So June Draude has a question.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you for your presentation. One of the statements you made that really had an impact on me is that you say why can't we still . . . you can't be sure that what was considered statutory rape is still statutory rape. Why can't we be sure? Did the legislation change?

Mr. Mountjoy: — Yes, we no longer have that crime. We now have sex with a person under the age of 18. And even when we wrote our strategy, for instance, I was . . . we put in there that we wanted this a hybrid offence so that we could at least have the indictable component to it. And when I went to check this through with the Crown prosecutor, he said it's already an indictable offence. It's not a summary offence. You're looking at the wrong section of the Criminal Code. We no longer have the statutory rape. We have a different thing, a different clause that has 10-year penalties but nobody knows about it.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay, thank you.

Mr. Yates: — Yes, my question goes to the issue of families who either support the activity or encourage the activity of a juvenile young person being involved in the trade. How do we deal . . . because you can't fix the problem just for that child then because obviously those family ties are very important to them. You can't take them away from their entire environment, those stabilities that they do have, and tell them that everything is wrong in their life. You just can't deal with a child like that.

What type of . . . or have you put any thought to dealing with the problem of families that are dysfunctional and maybe more than one generation dysfunctional in that way? How are we going to tackle that larger problem because I have a sense that that is part of the underlying problem here.

Mr. Mountjoy: — The long-term healing is all about that. And it's not only the healing the child, it's healing their immediate family, it's healing the community, and it's healing their First Nation community as well because there's linkages back to the First Nation. And so, we have no idea how to do that. I've done some literature review to see if we could find some urban culturally appropriate healing strategies that have been evaluated and we couldn't find any.

So I suspect that what we're going to find in the next five years is somebody is going to take on and develop not one but maybe four or five different approaches to this; but it's all going to be based on First Nation culture and be led by First Nation people to how do we get at this stuff. And there have been some examples on reserve. The Alkali Lake is a famous example in Canada, but there's been all sorts of other ones as well where they've actually done the healing and broke that cycle.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Ron had a question and then I think, then I think we'll need to wrap it up.

Mr. Harper: — Very briefly, in your presentation you indicated that there was . . . you had classified the participants that had been participating in the sex trade on the streets here in Regina in three categories: casual, regular, and everyday. The everyday participants, I would assume, would be the hard-core ones, the ones who are not in school.

From your experience in dealing with these folks, is there any common thread that would . . . any common element that would tie them all together as a cause for them to be on the street to be participating in this particular trade?

Mr. Mountjoy: — I'll let Delora and Christine deal with that because my interviews and the interviews that I was involved with was a year and a half, two years ago, and one of the things about this is it changes quite a bit. And so they're dealing with these kids on a day-to-day basis and so if you can have that question answered by them it would be much better.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you, Terry. And we appreciate ever so much you coming in and providing us with your presentation, and also the extra material that you brought for each of the committee members. And if you would be so kind as to make yourself available in the future to us if we

should have to consult with you again, we would appreciate it ever so much. So thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you, Terry. We're going to move on to our next presenters; and I'd like to welcome Delora Parisian and Cadace.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — While we're waiting for Delora and Cadace to take their seats, I wanted to just take a moment to bring to the attention of the committee and other people here in the room that we have with us — just over here — four social workers, I understand, from Finland.

And we are really very happy to have you with us and look forward to talking with you a little bit after committee meetings here so that we can get an understanding of just exactly what it is you're doing in Canada and Saskatchewan ... (inaudible interjection) ... You are students. Yes, okay. Well that's wonderful. Welcome.

The committee recessed for a period of time.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — ... Delora Parisian and Valerie Racette and Cadace with us. And I'm going to ask each of you to introduce yourselves more fully. We're really looking forward to your presentation and we want to thank each of you for coming this morning.

Delora, maybe we can start with you.

Ms. Parisian: — I'm the program manager for the Action Committee for Children at Risk, which was part of the five-point strategy that the city of Regina is ... We fit under the strategy of safety services there and providing education, too, as well. So we do a little bit of both under that strategy.

But I have worked in community development and working for non-community-based organizations now for over 20 years. I've also always worked closely with my people — the Aboriginal nations — and have seen all the suffering and all of that and always trying to work at changing things. And so I'm glad to be here. The level of interest is a lot higher than it has been in past years and I'm glad to be able to present this.

I also want to share with you that it's a real thing in my life because in my other life — I always say prior to starting my work and going back to school and that — I was also involved in the streets and was actually being recruited into prostitution. Although I didn't get right involved in it, I was being recruited, so I know how the recruiters are working and how they can work to get my people involved in the streets.

I also have close family members who are now working as being sexually exploited on the streets. So the issue is real close to home for me. And I think through the 20-some years that I've been able to work in this area, I think there are some things that really need to be done — areas that need to be addressed and challenges that need to be taken up.

But at the same time, I think there are a core, a handful of people that are working to address this issue, and that there is still hope that things can get better. And with that I'll let Valerie

and Cadace introduce themselves.

Ms. Racette: — Hi. My name is Valerie Racette and I'm glad to be here. I've worked with Delora Parisian for a year and a half now. I've really enjoyed my work there.

I'm an ex-prostitute and I've been incarcerated. I've done drugs for 20 years of my life, worked on the streets for 20 years of my life, so ...

And education, education is very important. After I recovered from drugs ... on October 12, 1990, I recovered from the drugs and the streets at that time. Since then I've went to school, got my 12. So education is very important.

Then I came back home and got introduced to Delora. And I've really enjoyed what she does with the young people because I recognize, in this city, that a lot of the young people ... and a lot of these young people are my family that are still out there and still doing drugs and working. And like children, like yes, they are very young and that. And so a lot of my family are still out on the streets, selling themselves, doing the drugs, and everything like that.

And I've found it very easy because in education, yes, I had to go to school to get my education. But then also I came back with having 20 years of street education — that's a prostitute and dealing with drugs and that. So, you know, I could come and I could talk with these young people.

And I relate everything that they're saying. I know what they're going through. I know how they feel when they're coming from withdrawals. I know how they feel when they need that street, they need that money. And like, it's not a life, it's not a life — it was a life of hell.

And I do whatever I can to stay away from it and try and talk with anybody. Because, you know, I'm not pleased about my past, but I'm not displeased because I could bring forward some ... and work with people. Just helping people makes me feel good and doing something for them. And this is Cadace.

Cadace: — I'm Cadace and I'm in recovery right now. I've been on the street ever since I was like 10 years old so ... And I've been an IV (intravenous) user for about maybe five, six years — I've kind of lost count; but otherwise than that — sorry — otherwise than that, I just came to tell my story. That's about it.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Delora and Valerie and Cadace, thank you for being here; and Delora, I'll let you present in whatever order you'd like to. But Delora, I sense that you're probably going to start off — are you?

Ms. Parisian: — Yes, I am. And we have lots of information. And I was sitting back there thinking how am I going to do all of this and get the information past because you know there is a lot to learn about this area. And what we want our presentation to do is stir up people to take some action. And that's why I like the name of our committee — the action Committee — because we have to take action.

You hear the stories of the three of us, how closely we're involved in that and how close to home. And you know talking to Cadace about the number of kids that are on the street — 300 — it does seem like a lot but it may not be unrealistic. Our research is indicating and uncovering and revealing that there might be more than what people thought.

But one of the things I like about the committee too is that it's not child prostitution — it's child abuse. And that's the message that we carry as well. And that we try to educate people and the general public against prostitution . . . using the term prostitution because prostitution is an age-old profession and our society has tolerated it for a number of years. And one of the presentations that I do is the relationship between child abuse and sexual exploitation of children and adult prostitution. And there are some common denominators that you can see if a child has been abused; that there's a road or a pattern that's developed for them.

But child prostitute . . . or adult prostitution. I haven't yet heard of an adult prostitute tell me that they enjoyed that lifestyle and they had chosen it as their career choice and that's something that they wanted to stay at for the rest of their life. And I think that's one of the myths of our society, is that it's a choice. And if you dig deeper and study the facts and the history about adult prostitutes and give them a career choice and if they had . . . you presented them a doctor, a lawyer, a nurse, or a prostitute — which one of those would you choose to take, I don't think that after learning and discovering all that there is that prostitutes are murdered on the street, that they carry weapons, that they're abused, that anyone would willingly choose to be a prostitute.

But that dates back to our history as Aboriginal people in some of the challenges of the residential school abuse and the problems of racism and discrimination that we as a nation has experienced, that now we're having to deal with the consequences of that. So although the sexual exploitation of children is a consequence of all that in terms of dealing with our people . . . So what I'd like to do is just give you some background information about the Action Committee for Children at Risk. And I'm going to be talking a little bit fast because I'm hoping that I can get through the information that we have.

As Terry was saying, in May of '97 following a forum on prostitution, a forum on child prostitution, which was a term that was used at that time and is now being changed, that it was sponsored by the Regina Crime Prevention, the action committee now is a coalition of community and government agencies who share the belief that children engaged in prostitution are the victims of abuse. And that's something that he talked about 90 people being there; 35 to 40 different agencies became involved at that point to try to determine a plan of action.

ACCAR members agree that the key to helping children who are involved in this trade is to assist both the child and the family so we find that we have a family-centred approach. And I think that was one of the questions this morning is how do you deal just with the child? Well we don't try to deal just with the child — we try to take that family-centred approach.

The children need a supportive, caring environment and the opportunity to choose healthy lifestyles. And that's something that our action committee tries to do. I'm hoping I'm not getting too far away from this; if you want to, just wave at me if I am. As the family is not always able to provide for this caring environment, ACCAR is able to provide the prevention and intervention to facilitate these opportunities.

The services remain voluntary for the family and child. In no way are they referred to us by Social Services or mandated by any other agency that they must come and partake of these services. Either the mother has approached us, either the child themselves has approached us, or some other agency has called and said, I know of this family, they want to talk to you. Could you go out to visit them. And basically that's how we respond to some of the calls, the referrals that we have been getting.

Through the funding assistance from Social Services in the city, ACCAR hired a program developer in '98 and they spent six months reviewing and researching some of the information that Terry was presenting to you this morning.

That information on the needs of the children and their families led the action committee to the conclusion that direct intervention services were urgently needed. It was decided that upon referral from all kinds of resources that we would hire a support service provider who would work to implement a plan of action with the families. And that's one of the roles that Val fulfills in this process is that she is one of the support service providers.

The provider would also assist the child and family to access other services in the community that could help them to achieve their goals, meaning that Val takes . . . once a referral . . . we initiate or engage the child into the services, she tries to go out into the community and introduce them into other activities such as recreation activities or sports or cultural activities — something the child has never been involved in before. So that they're introduced into an alternative way. Because if a child is busy doing those things, there is no time for them to be busy on the streets.

We understand that often conflicts . . . (inaudible) . . . the children who are sexually exploited through prostitution and their families require diligence and persistence on the part of staff when attempting to establish a positive relationship with the family.

And this is so true. We have been at this almost two years now. And to gain the trust of that group that we're working with is extremely difficult. Even though we are Aboriginal people working with Aboriginal people, it's still a lot to get into those families and try to facilitate some kind of change in that area.

The period of engagement is critical where a child and family initially decline services. So we've had families who call us up and say, well . . . For example, just last week I got a call. This mom and daughter both on the street — they wanted me to go and talk with them. So I said okay, that we were all going to come to my office and this other lady that works as the community school coordinator was bringing them over.

Well they got to the front door of my office and that's as far as they got. They couldn't come in any further. There's a lot of fear. There's a lot of whatever it is that prevented her from coming into that. She just couldn't. So what I did was, I gave my card and all the information that I could gather and gave it to the mom and the daughter to read. That's the first step. But usually that's how difficult it is to engage these families in some type of a service.

There's a lot of embarrassment, fear, and mistrust. And we run across that all the time. Getting up here and sharing our story even is a difficult kind of challenge but it has to be done in order to bring awareness to this issue. So we're often challenged to overcome this resistance and deal with those emotions.

And I'm the program coordinator and I supervise this, and we have a co-management committee that consists of different agencies in Regina. And we have the one from the police, one from the city, a rep from Social Services, and three different community-based organizations, one from the school, and then we have a resident who participates on this whole management committee that oversees this.

And then a broader steering committee meets quarterly to gather agency and community input into this decision making. So we have a broader . . . about 35 to 40 members sitting on that committee that we meet with to discuss this.

The mission and vision of the action committee is to work together to protect children who are being sexually abused and exploited through prostitution. The vision is to implement the co-operative community-based project involving community and government reps to prevent further victimization of children who are involved or at risk of being involved in prostitution.

Early on when I was hired, I just really didn't realize how much of a challenge this was going to be and what was needed, what strategy would work. And I think through the steering committee, meeting with the steering committee, meeting with the community agencies, meeting with . . . We have a safety services network that Christine Dieter will be elaborating on later on.

But through that they wanted a comprehensive approach. So dealing with that, this is what we came up with in terms of what are the community's capacities in order to respond to this. And although this looks like a real . . . at least to some people it looks like a real good plan of action, we're only implementing a very tiny part of it because of resources, of course. Mainly because of resources. And the other part is getting people on stream with us. That's sometimes difficult to do because of the fear, embarrassment, and mistrust that surrounds this issue.

But what we're dealing with is the children and the families at risk. How we want to do that is bringing all these different agencies and people in as partners. So we have local businesses, we have the 7-Eleven involved with us because of . . . on Dewdney and Robinson Street here in Regina where the 7-Eleven is, they are witness to the violence and the drug abuse and the drug deals that are going on. And they want to know

how can they help in this.

We deal with healing centres and hospitals. We deal with the mental health centres. We work very closely with the Four Directions Health Centre in terms of setting up some of the responses. Churches and religious groups — I've gotten calls from at least three to four churches so far. They want to know what they could do to help.

The community police that are now located in north central play a real critical role in responding to some of the issues. The schools, there is a role for the schools. We have had meetings with the principals and the community school co-ordinators. They recognize that it is a problem and is an issue, but we don't have the resources to bring a comprehensive kind of response to this.

So we work with neighbours and residents. They sit on the co-management committee. Our action committee has a Let's Talk Neighbourhood session where we meet four times a year at the North Central Community Association to discuss this issue, to discuss a plan of action. We have had four of those meetings and 130 residents attended each one of them. Approximately 130 attended each one of the Let's Talk Neighbourhood sessions.

The first one was to introduce ourselves. The second one was . . . and to see what the residents were seeing themselves on the street. So we have that, we have all that documented.

The second session was, basically, what are we going to do to respond to this? The third session was where are we? Are we implementing them? In response to the neighbours and residents in the north central area, we responded with a hope and healing group where we have, once a week we have a hope and healing group that's offered right at our centre.

We have seven girls who are enrolled in that program. The youngest is 10. And to me that was rather shocking, even though I've been working in this area such a long time. There are two 14-year-olds, two 13-year-olds, and a 23-year-old, and another 12-year-old, I believe.

But the other response has been that we have a parenting class. Because that's what the neighbourhood felt that . . . the people that were involved in this, that's what they felt that they needed. And there's more, but we just don't have the resources to be able to implement some of what came out of those Let's Talk Neighbourhood sessions.

Currently we want to work with youth groups. We've been working with Rainbow. We're planning now a conference to deal with this issue with youth. We're trying to set up a youth advisory committee. We're drawing together youth who can provide leadership capabilities. Cadace was our leader in that, and then she had to move to Saskatoon and she left us. So we're trying to recruit youth who can help us with this youth leader.

So working with all these groups, we hope to accomplish some of the same goals that I hear the committee talking about here today, in that we want the youth to develop action plans. We want to see an increase in appropriate resources available to

them. Although this is happening on a very small scale, it is happening.

We want some accountability, prevention, intervention, reduction. We want public attitudes changed as referring back to prostitution. When you hear the term prostitution, what does it mean to you? And it isn't what it really is.

Support — again the zero tolerance. I like that. I agree with that. We need to address that more. These johns and pimps need to be made responsible for what they're doing. Positive self-esteem, establishing goals, and all of these things.

So that was our strategy. But as I said it's a big strategy. It's a lot bigger than what our seven-member whole management committee can handle, plus with the finances.

The goals of our committee is to prevent the abuse of our children involved in . . . and it should be the sexual exploitation of children. Again we've changed those terms. We want to support children and their families in making healthy life choices. We want to provide the coordination of existing services and develop supportive community-based services and resources that assist families. And so that sort of outlines where we want to go with that.

To actively involve community residents and agencies as leaders, advisers, and volunteers to the project — that has been one of the biggest tasks that I have ever undertaken in my whole life. When I'm starting to set up a Let's Talk Neighbourhood session, I am overwhelmed with the amount of work that it takes first of all. But getting there and talking to these residents and wanting to help and not having a whole lot of things except to let them, I guess, vent and share and things like that . . . But it's a . . . even though it's the biggest challenge, I think it's one of the most critical, important when you're trying to address an issue such as this, is to have that type of involvement.

Again, to involve community and government organizations, to address the need for a holistic family healing and improved community wellness opportunities, we're always working on that.

To identify issues and problems and barriers to leaving the street and seek child and family centred solutions. Because it is hard for those children once they are involved on the street to leave, because there are no supports for them at all.

The other one is to achieve a better understanding of the reality of children involved in this area. Because the reality is, is that it's a very sad situation for many of these people.

This is one of the . . . part of my presentation that I do. I'll just go really quickly through it, but it's an awareness quiz. And the awareness quiz has 15 questions. And these questions are:

Do you have, or ever thought you were crazy? Well, I think all of us will, hopefully, answer yes at one time or another.

Do you, or did you think you were bad? Do you have trouble finding friends, lovers, or acquaintances? Once you find them,

do they dump on you, take advantage of you, or leave you? Are you in a relationship you know is not good for you? Are you getting beat up? Does your partner or friends drink too much? Are things okay sometimes but never for long? Are you always doing for others but finding no one returns the favour? Are you distressed and afraid of others? Are you suspicious, resentful, angry at others, often explosive?

Do you find others are always taking their anger out on you? No matter how many good things others tell you, do you end up thinking they're lying to you? Would you rather stay home alone and lonely, than face people you don't know who may not like you? Do you let people go on too long doing or saying something that distresses you before stopping them, and later find that you resent them?

Do you think you are good for nothing? Are you drinking too much, eating too much, or trying to numb your pain with drugs of any kind? Do you find yourself being abusive to your kids or that you're afraid to have kids for fear that you'll beat them up?

Now I know if some of us answered one or two questions yes, or maybe even three, we would be on our way to set up an appointment for counselling. But this is something that most of the kids will answer yes to all of them. This is when they've been on the street for awhile. This is how they feel most of the time if not all of the time.

And so you see the levels of feelings and the levels of problems that have to be addressed here.

This is what we're finding out. This is the characteristics that typify the children and their environment. The children are under 18 and they usually live in the north central, and they usually are First Nations children. And as I said again, there are more than what we initially thought, and I think that's beginning to happen.

They usually are from single parent families or a family in which the father is frequently absent. Families have little or no income and are dependent on social assistance. Unemployment is extremely high or lacking among family members — none of them are employed. You may have a family of mother and father and older siblings, and none of them are employed.

Alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse are a daily part of the children and/or their family's lifestyle. And that's probably why they're on the street. They have been put out on the street. As Cadace will be revealing and sharing her story, it was her mother that put her out on the street because she had a drug habit to support. That is not uncommon in the children that we are dealing with.

School attendance is irregular or lapsed. And in talking with some of the community school coordinators, they're finding that they're trying to respond to that. But if you don't have the family engaged in the healing plan, it's oftentimes difficult to get their co-operation in this.

The child has run away from home due to intolerable conditions at home. And it may be that they don't want to be put out on the street. I haven't yet had a child tell me, well, I want to do this

for a living, I like what I'm doing, I enjoy it. I've yet to run across one child in all the children that I've talked to that have said that they like it.

The child is on the run from a secure lock-up facility, and that includes Dojack and Ranch Ehrlo, because they're not responding to the cultural aspect of our people; they're not really into rehabilitation or finding some means to help the children.

These girls are running away from there. They don't find it as a place that they could seek healing. Therefore they're homeless when they run away. They can't go back home. They can't . . . they don't want to go to be locked up, so they're homeless. And that's what they're doing — they're selling themselves on the street in order to eat.

The child and/or family members are usually victims of one or more types of abuse. And I have the types of abuse, the definitions of child abuse. And there's, you know, the neglect and emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse — things like that. And usually they are the victims of that, either one or more. So they may be sexually abused by an uncle, then they may be given drugs at an early age. They may be beaten by their mom. So they could be facing multiple abuse problems.

The family relationships are usually unsupportive and very dysfunctional. The family violence is common. Children may witness extreme violent incidents. And if you read the news and you hear about the murders and the standoff that our Aboriginal people are involved in in the north central area — many times you hear them being shot and murdered right in their own homes — those are moms and dads of children who are witnessing this.

So it's a reality and it's happening. If you read the papers, how often do you read about one of our . . . an Aboriginal person being stabbed or being sexually abused in some way. They have children who are witnessing this and that's how they're growing up to be desensitized to this, to what's happening.

The child and family have been victims of racism and discrimination and I think that goes to . . . Why I put an asterisk there is because what has happened is that the people who have been put into the residential school — there's a whole generation of our people that have been raised in the residential school — who have come out of there with no parenting skills. They have had children who they have never taught. They turn to alcohol and drugs to dull the pain of that.

That generation has raised up a generation of children who still don't have any healing. We are on to now the fourth generation of children who have been through that process; who have not had any healthy family environment to learn how to be a good parent, what does it take. They don't have that teaching that all the rest of society usually has had. So we're far behind in that.

And so that's how racism and discrimination perpetuates that and you see people calling them, oh dirty old Indians, oh look at that drunken Indian. But why are they that way? You know, no one ever goes to find . . . dig deeper than that. I shouldn't say "no one" because there's a lot of people that do.

Child and family have extremely low levels of self-esteem, poor self-images, or feelings of unworthiness. And we find that quite common, that suicide is a major alternative choice for these children. They would rather die than . . . that they think no one likes them, no one loves them, they have nowhere to go.

And the community does not support or reinforce healthier lifestyle choices and few positive role models are seen; although now in the last two years I think that's beginning to change and that's why I put an asterisk there as well. It's slowly but surely changing as people are becoming more and more aware of this issue.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Delora, I want to apologize to you but I'm looking at the time, and recognizing that we also want to hear from Valerie and from Cadace, and I'm wondering . . . I hope you'll forgive me for suggesting that you stop because I know that you've got other important information that you'd like to share with us.

But we are going to need to hear from another witness yet this morning and I'm also conscious of the fact that we want to hear from Valerie and Cadace. So could you wrap in the next minute and then . . .

Ms. Parisian: — Actually that's what I was going to do.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Oh, okay; oh good, Delora. I'm sorry. If I had known that, I wouldn't have intervened. Forgive me.

Ms. Parisian: — Okay. Okay. So threats of physical harm or violence are used to coerce the child. Recruitment by older peers and siblings is common. Parents — and usually mothers — are forcing their children, usually girls, to prostitute to support drug habits, is being uncovered. Child and family do not view human service organizations as supportive. The majority of children are Aboriginal and are not connected to their cultural heritage which includes, as I said, the values, the positive attitudes, the belief in a positive way of life that most of us have found. You know, we grew up with that; well they don't.

Children have not minimally participated in extra . . . have not or minimally participated in extracurricular sports, recreation, or cultural activities. And overall the family lives in hopeless poverty. And I say hopeless poverty because that's how they see it. They find no way out because they lack education skills or training of any kind. And most of them consistently rely on the food bank. Housing conditions are extremely poor and inadequate. So they are being victimized.

And as I said, I tried to go really quick and give you an overview of some of the things that we're doing and some of the things that we're finding out. And I'll now give Val and Cadace, I think, a time to share.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Delora, thank you for an excellent presentation. It was very valuable and I apologize for needing to hurry you along at the end there. Valerie, we look forward to your comments, and Cadace, your comments.

Ms. Racette: — In my comments in what I do . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Well had you wanted to make a presentation of some sort?

Ms. Racette: — Well I didn't prepare any or anything.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Don't feel that you . . . Yes. No, don't feel that you have to, but . . .

Ms. Racette: — But I'm willing to share anything that I have been through and my experiences with whatever questions anyone would have.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Valerie, we would just appreciate if you would share your life experience with us. That's, I think, what we need to hear and to know more than anything is the life experience of people that in fact have lived this life so that we can come to a heartfelt understanding of where you're at. So if you could do that for us.

Ms. Racette: — Okay, I'll do that. I started off as a prostitute and a needle user at the age, about 14. And I carried on with that lifestyle up until I was about 33, 34. So I lived as a prostitute and a drug addict for very many years. Had very low self-esteem of myself.

I was raised with my grandmother. It was not shown to me in that I had a lot of my family members, my distant family members do that sort of thing. And that it's somehow, some way when I was young I just went into that lifestyle. And I enjoyed what they called the night life, partying and things. So that's the life I carried on.

And while I was an addict there was . . . I had a lot of awful comments, a lot of put-downs, people had put me down quite often. I lived with an abusive partner and that. Call him my pimp because he had never ever worked or anything because I supported the both of us.

And I had to leave all that. Like I had to leave my family and all of my partners and that, and move away to a different province. Then I found treatment. And it wasn't even that. It was that my brother, he had . . . he was on a life-support machine. And he was the only brother I had that did not do drugs, did not drink, did not do any of that stuff and that. And I had to sign the papers for him to pass on and that. And that was very hard for me at that time, and that was October 12 of 1990. That's why I know the exact date I had pushed that needle aside.

And since then I've went to treatment, went and did my follow-up, went to school, took me a very long time to get my 12 but I did get it and that. And it's very hard to even comprehend going back to school as an adult and as a recovered drug addict because you lose a lot of brain cells; you lose a lot. So it was very hard for me to comprehend everything that I had to. But I did, and I did get my 12.

And then I came down and got introduced to Delora and that's when I've been with the Action Committee for Children at Risk and every day. And that's why I find it easier to speak with these people. Because while I was trying to find recovery, I had

nurses saying, oh well this is how withdrawals are, and they weren't telling me straight goods and that, and I knew it another way and that.

So I had gotten all through my recovery. I had gotten all these wrong informations and that. And like, yes, I know you have to learn things from a book. But then from experience, that's one . . . the best way to learn is through experience. And so a lot of these children and young people that we work with and that, like I understand, I feel what they're going through, I understand what they're doing.

And this is why I feel I have the upper . . . (inaudible) . . . on anyone who has read it from the book. And it's much easier for me to talk with people — understanding them.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you, Valerie. We're going to . . . I'm sure that there are people with thoughts in their minds and questions for you and so on, but we're going to hopefully hear from Cadace and then later on we'll question all three of you.

Cadace, if you would be so kind as to help us along here by giving us your story.

Cadace: — Well when I was young, like about age 10, me, like I was . . . I used to hang around with my cousins, like mostly my family in Saskatoon. Otherwise and that they were older than I was and basically they got into pimping and stuff like that and they put a lot of young girls . . . Like I wasn't the only one. There was my other friend too, but she was a year older than me. And then otherwise than that, there was 13- and 14-year-olds. And we were all like this group and they all put us out at first. If we didn't do what they say, they'll beat us. Otherwise than that, I ended up going home and my mom found out what happened. And then basically she charged them.

And so I was doing it off and on until basically I hit about 14. And then I started — about 14, yes — I started getting into the IV drugs. Like before that I used to be really scared of needles, but it was like I had a lot of anger inside me and my mom was a pill user, my mom was like this drug addict and stuff like that. And she wasn't introduced to needles until she found me doing it.

And after that I got blamed for introducing it to her and stuff like that. And basically she told me that if I — I don't know — just because I introduced it to her, I have to support her. Otherwise than that, when I was like 15 years old she was telling me, well you know what, how about you just go out there and, you know, just rob the tricks and stuff like that. And basically I was too scared to do that.

Before then, I was doing it off and on on the side, but the thing is I didn't really want to tell her I was doing that. But she got a little too carried away, as well as I am. And it had turned into a 24-hour day. And I don't know, it's like basically when you're out there, I don't think you want to call that a career because it isn't. It's basically you're stuck there. You're in this deep hole and it's hard to get out of.

I ended up quitting school and I ended up getting into it harder

and harder. Like I was there . . . Like I never even saw daytime, only when the sun came up. Otherwise than that, that was time for me to go to bed. That's when my job was done.

And after that basically she took me to this woman's house which that girl, that woman, was also putting her daughter out on the street and basically my mom had debts to be paid from that woman. And basically I was the one who was going to pay it off. So I had to live there for a couple of months.

Otherwise than that, I don't know, I buried myself with IV drugs. And the thing is that I had very low self-esteem. I don't even think I had self-esteem. I didn't . . . you know, when it's in that kind of process, I didn't even want a boyfriend because I was too afraid to get pregnant and stuff like that. But I ended up getting pregnant when I was 16 from this other guy, but I ended up purposely having a miscarriage.

Otherwise than that, I don't know, I just had a lot of pain, a lot of guilt inside because my mom put that, like she put it right in my head that I was guilty for her IV using. Like it was my fault, it wasn't her fault. And I really . . . I strongly believed that when I was a kid. Like I really did. Like she put everything out on us when we were kids. And she made us feel low because she basically had no self-esteem. So we had to be in the same level as her or otherwise than that we don't do anything.

And, I don't know, when I hit the age 17, I kept on. I don't know, it was just like I didn't like where I was and I tried getting treatment. And I . . . At first, I lost my mother for that. And I was very co-dependent on her. And I lost her because basically I ended up taking off to a detox centre, into treatment, and after that she wasn't there for me because I wasn't using drugs.

And I wasn't getting her what she wanted, like, and basically she couldn't go on. She couldn't be using unless I was around because I was the one who was supporting her habit. And otherwise than that she only visited me once when I was in that treatment centre but the thing is that she wanted me to leave and go back with her. She wanted me to go and live with her. But the thing was that the only reason why she wanted me around was just for money. She didn't want me as . . . She didn't know how to love. And otherwise than that, I don't know, it's just . . . I went back to that life.

Like I got into programs and stuff like that, but the thing was that I wanted my mom to love me so much that I was willing to do a lot for her. And just to be noticed by her, just to be loved, because she was the only one who didn't leave me out of my family. She always stuck by me and she put it in my head that basically I was special to her. But the thing was that I was just a feeder of her addiction. And so I did that off and on and otherwise than that she use to kick me out of the house because her boyfriend didn't like me.

So just to make . . . come back . . . Like just for her to bring me back into the house I used to give her drugs and I used to give her money. And one day she asked me how she can do it, how she could work on the streets, but the thing is that I didn't want her to because I was already in it. And the thing is I saw her so highly and I saw her so proud of me for making her proud, you

know, for me just to be her daughter; like she was calling me her daughter. And then otherwise than that when I wasn't using and stuff like that I was thrown away.

She got my little brother into . . . Well he wasn't doing Ritalin but we were doctoring. Like we were taking prescriptions and stuff like that from a whole bunch of different doctors. When I used to take off from her she'd get mad. And otherwise than that, I figured out that was just all nothing but a big use. Because if I wasn't around she'll go get somebody else with my health card and she'll go get that drugs. If my little brother wasn't around she'll go out and get his prescription. I don't . . . she cared about us but she didn't know how to care for herself.

And I kept on going back to the streets until basically somebody suggested, because I talked to somebody about this, and somebody suggested that I should see this woman, like Delora, because she's been through it and she knows how to . . . like she gives people hope. And she knew how it was like because before I thought that nobody was really like me. I thought that I was like . . . I thought that I was so useless to this world.

And basically ever since I met them, like Val came into my life, the funny thing is no matter what I did they always came by, and she always came by to visit me and stuff like that.

And I was in an abusive relationship but I ended up getting out of that. And finally in December it finally made me realize that I didn't really want to be in that where I was, because I kept on going back. I quit for awhile, for about maybe three months, but I was doing it on the side. I was hiding it from people. And then I got stabbed in May and like they injected me with a whole bunch of morphine, and after that I came into a big morphine user.

And then my boyfriend, my ex-boyfriend was suggesting that I should go out and go, you know, go because I got him into it too, so I was getting blamed for his drug use too. Otherwise and that my mom will hang around with me. Like she'll always come visit me when she found out that I was back on the street. And it just, it doesn't feel good to be there; it doesn't. It feels like shit — excuse my language, but it does.

And especially at first I was like in this cycle. I kept on going back and back and back and I kept on going back deeper and deeper and deeper because basically I didn't really know how to care for myself. I've thought of myself very useless. But I had to move to Saskatoon because I was getting too heavy into cocaine.

And otherwise than that I've been four months clean. And the thing is, it's better to be clean. It's better to be here right now talking about this instead of being out there because it's not fun being out there.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Valerie and Cadace, we want to all thank you very, very much for I think what's a very special gift to members of this committee to share your stories. It's required a lot of personal courage on your part. And we have deep gratitude to you for doing this and deep respect for both of you.

If you are feeling up for it, members of the committee may have questions for all three of you. And if you're not feeling up for it, please feel free to tell us so, you know, because it's fine to also say no.

I'm going to invite members of the committee to ask any questions that they might want to. I'm going to suggest that we limit ourselves though to one question each just with a view to time and also, you know, the other needs that the people will have this morning.

So let's open the floor for questions.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Just before committee members present their questions to any one of the three of you, I just wanted to address Cadace, Valerie, and Delora and offer you something that an elder actually from North Dakota said to me.

And this elder was a man who had sexually abused a number of young women. And as his life evolved and he changed — he changed into love — he started to simply help girls and young women actually, as they grew older, to understand their beauty.

And he made a comment to me that he always encouraged the young women, even later in their lives when they made a circle, a healing circle, and the women didn't want to come forward because they didn't feel worthy, they still didn't feel worthy. It seemed like a long term sort of innate feeling of unworthiness.

But what he told them is something that stayed with me for a long time. And he said, you must come into the circle because the circle is not complete without your beauty. And in spite of all the things that we sometimes go through in life, and you know the beauty is what shines forth; your beauty is the essence of who you are. And it was a very beautiful thing that you've done for us this morning. Thank you.

As Mr. Prebble has mentioned, we'll open up some questions from the committee members.

Mr. Toth: — If I could say thank you as well. And I really, I really don't know where to go. I really appreciate what you've shared because you've opened my eyes. I'm not really aware of what, what takes place and what goes on but I sense that what everyone is crying out for is a little bit of love. And we hear, we hear a lot about how we need love. And unfortunately many of us really haven't found a way to really, really show it. And I think around this committee you'll probably find that we'd like to extend our arms of love as well.

But if you had, if you had just one suggestion to make to the committee, what would you suggest that we would come up with in regards to reaching out to young people and their families? Because this is what you've shared — especially Cadace and Valerie — what you've shared. This is a family, a family problem, a family issue.

How do we reach out to people to show them that they're part of the community? And let's put colour aside. I know it's hard to do, but let's . . . We need to begin to reach out in that broader, broader circle.

And would you have one suggestion or something that we need to do as a society to show love to families and to young people so that they don't feel compelled to go to the streets to meet or try to access some of that love that you were talking about, Cadace?

And it doesn't matter who . . . maybe Delora or whoever.

Ms. Racette: — Okay. I feel personally that if we had a safe place . . . because you see some of these young girls and that, we can get them. They will come and talk to us. We can take them for treatment, whatever else it needs. But then what environment do they have to go to after?

We're just fortunate with Cadace that she is a strong, young woman and that she knows that this isn't the kind of life she wants. So therefore Cadace will go out and seek the kind of life she wants — not on the streets and not with drugs. But there's a lot of these young girls out there that don't have a safe place to go to. After they get treatment or talk to somebody and that, they have nowhere else to go except the same environment.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — So, Valerie, in . . . I'm sorry for intervening here, Don, but in a couple of the provinces in Canada they have, I guess farm environments more or less. It's away from the environment of the streets so that you're not, you know, you don't feel the threat or you're not subject to someone trying to pull you back in. But those environments are made up . . . like there's drug and alcohol treatment in that environment but during that time it's like everything is working in tandem.

During that time there are job skills. There is actually an opportunity to interact with nature, with animals, with the natural surroundings and there's sort of a job creation, wealth creation component within the farm, so that they support themselves as such and all that goes on. And so there's a lot of wholesome stuff that does come about during the time of drug and alcohol treatment.

Do you think that something like that in Saskatchewan would be a help? We do have a couple of places I know, but to my understanding there's not enough spaces.

Ms. Racette: — No, there isn't enough spaces. I firmly believe that if there was a place like that there would be . . . around at home. Like there is places like that but there is no places . . . (inaudible) . . . that we could keep these young children close to home because their biggest issue here is their family. They're going to lose connection with their family. So if we pull them too far away from their family, no, they're going to get lonesome and they're going to want to come back.

So if we had a safe place — not right in central Regina or maybe not even right in Regina — but if we had a safe place to take these children, just show them that there is a different kind of life to live and that. And like, no there is no . . . If there is any, there is no space. I personally through experience and having someone wanting to go to treatment and then, without having to send them to Alberta or BC, for these young people, there's nothing.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — There's nothing, no.

Ms. Racette: — And I go out and I search, I searched all . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes, I would agree with you, there's not very much here. Ranch Ehrlo is here but it's not the space anyway.

Ms. Racette: — Ranch Ehrlo, it's all right for someone that's criminally active in that like Ranch Ehrlo, Dojack and all these kind. But then these centres it's like I see it as a resource, a vacation resource, because no, these places aren't jail. You go to Alberta, go to the young offenders centre there, now that's shown to children as jail. You go out to Dojack here, hey I want to come and rest for a couple of months too.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay. Yes, okay. Are there any other members . . . Don has another question.

Mr. Toth: — The concern I still have is we may have a safe place for healing — I come back to what Cadace had been sharing with us — still we need to address the situation at the home or you leave that safe environment and you go home and if the family hasn't changed, if you feel, if you still aren't feeling that they care at home, how do you overcome that?

Ms. Racette: — I've got . . . my family, the majority of my family live here. I see my granddaughter and my three grandchildren out of my whole family. But for my health, for my safety, and for my recovery I had no choice but I have to step back.

Mr. Toth: — But for a real young person that's still difficult because that's still mom, that's still dad, that's still family.

Cadace: — And I guess you've got to realize that what she's doing or what those family members are doing is really wrong and it takes a lot. It takes a really lot but to be honest, you've got to really think hard and you got to really look at yourself and checking if you want to be there or not. And even if it loses a family member that is, to be honest, that is their loss; it's not yours. Because the thing is you're gaining so much out of it as well as someday they could stay or not.

Like still today, me and my mother do talk but the thing is that I don't chose to be with her a long time because she still is using to this day going on now. And I consider myself very lucky to get out especially at a young age. Even though . . . even when I did try get out of it she kept on going harder and harder to get me back into it. But that is her problem; that wasn't mine, and I'm happy that I'm out of it so.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Are there other members of the committee who have questions? Kevin? Ron? Carol?

Ms. Jones: — Yes, I want to thank you as well for the presentations, they were very powerful, emotionally moving stories and I think more people need to hear them.

It seems to me that the lucky few who find an alternate support system are those who, if the street is their family and their support system, then it seems like the ones who were able to get out of it away from the street have found another family, another support system. Is that a fair comment?

Ms. Racette: — Yes.

Ms. Jones: — So, then it would seem logical that if we can increase the amount of support or the number of outreach agencies, that that should increase the number of people who are able to leave the street. But I sense that it's not that simple.

Ms. Racette: — No, no it's not.

Ms. Jones: — And I think the most troubling part of it so far that I've heard — and I know that we're going to hear many more troubling stories in our endeavours, in our efforts to get to the bottom — is the family situations, the family pimp, the family rejection, and need to have somebody support family addictions. And I'm wondering if there's some hope there? Is there some things that are being done that you can share that are perhaps beginning to address the issue of the, you know, the parents and the siblings, the older siblings that are putting the youth out at risk?

It's very troubling for me. I don't even know how to explain the question that I want to ask. But that seems to be a big part of the problem, it's not just people choosing to live a lifestyle where they're going to be abused and beaten and become drug users. So what things can we do or what can be done or what is being done in that area?

Ms. Parisian: — I think part of the problem is when you get to work in this field and there is a lot of . . . you see a lot of hopelessness it seems because how do you respond and what do you do. It seems to overwhelm you at times. But when it's the family, the child is part of the family, as Cadace said that there are many mothers and dads that are doing that, that they have already been given choices whether or not they need to get help with alcohol, drugs or whatever — that family.

So really they're still choosing to be . . . most of them are choosing to be actively involved with them. However we continue to take that family-centred approach because, as you hear, Cadace still remains closely tied to her mother. So without a family-centred approach I think that has to be made part of the strategy. Like we don't . . . I don't know that we have those answers too, but we know for sure that something about . . . it has to involve the family.

And yet I think there's still hope because some of the families that we work with . . . we have other situations where we work with a family who that the mom has decided to seek treatment and healing or the dad has or they're coming to us to help, so you know the family should remain at the core of whatever strategy will be implemented.

Ms. Jones: — You just have to keep working at it and keep pushing.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Delora, you talked about the lack of resources for some of the things that you'd most like to do, things that you've prioritized and that are a part of an action plan but that you haven't had the resources to implement. And Valerie has talked about the need for a safe, secure place where you can pursue treatment and begin healing, and at the same time not be too far away from one's family and friends. So that

would mean something fairly close to Regina.

Could you . . . could you tell us some of the things that you would really like to be able to do but are not able to do right now because the resources aren't available. I assume this safe place is one of those things.

Ms. Parisian: — Yes, I think it is. And you know — I know people get tired of hearing this but it's a message that Aboriginal people have tried to carry for a lot of years and even sometimes I get tired of saying it too, and if I'm getting tired I can imagine how the other party feels — but you know there's very little cultural development services available to our families. There are centres, there are homes, but there's no cultural activity going on in those homes, in those centres that can respond to the needs, you know.

Because we are a separate culture, we do have a separate value system, a separate belief. I mean there are things that are common but cultural development — we need that. If we are to have a safe place, that's what needs to be done. The other thing is like an open healing group that we are piloting right now, where we have the seven girls coming in. We have an Aboriginal facilitator who is doing the group who has extensive background and knowledge in sexual assaults and sexual abuse and we need to see a bit more of that.

And we need a place like for Cadace who . . . there are other girls who are in her place who have decided to leave but they don't have . . . they're sort of independent but they really don't have a place to go where . . . they're semi-independent meaning they're ready to go on their own yet they need support. So if we had something like the "Y". And most of our girls that we've tried to put in the "Y" won't stay; they stay maybe a week or so and it's just because . . . again it doesn't seem to respond to what their needs are. So we need a place where they can, you know, maintain a degree of independence, at the same time getting support and education and teaching which they haven't received most of their lives.

So those are a few things . . . and I guess a place where people can gather. We have a small place — we're having a teen bannock social on Friday, 1 to 3; you're all invited to come and visit us — but it's a very small centre so you know that's part of the problem too is there's not adequate space.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you, Delora.

Mr. Harper: — One question. Delora, there seems to be from the testimonies of Cadace and Val and from others that we've heard, there seems to be developing a pattern that low self-esteem seems to be a common thread that binds many of those people who are involved in the trade. Would you believe that this is pretty well widespread with — the low self-esteem that is — is pretty well widespread within the Aboriginal population because of their experiences at the residential schools?

Ms. Parisian: — Well I'm not an expert in that field but some of the data and information that I've gathered and some of the material that I have read and been at conferences in that, indicate that anyone who is a victim of child sexual abuse, or has been sexually abused in some manner when they were children, usually

grow up with low levels of self-esteem. And so that they are easily exploited and easily taken into a negative lifestyle, and all the research seems to back that up.

So if in the residential school abuse there was sexual abuse going, many of those who are now the parents and mothers and fathers . . . I think that's a big issue with them and that's why you'll see very few of them seeking out help even though they realize I think . . . Like for Cadace's mom, I'm sure if you sat down and had a conversation with her, she would say that she really didn't want to do that. That she wanted help to get out of that but she just couldn't see how it could be done. So when you're feeling low self-esteem, that's how the picture looks to you. It's hopeless. You're never going to get out of there. And for someone who has never experienced that low level of self-esteem, it's really a difficult thing to understand. And until people can be reached and educated and given the support and the love that they need, I think that situation will stay the same.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Just a comment on that, Delora. And I know when we were . . . when Ron was talking about the Aboriginal community and so on, and you mentioned anyone who has suffered sexual abuse will have low self-esteem, I think that it was either out at Tamara's House in Saskatoon or another agency that I heard from, that mentioned that actually whether it's the Aboriginal community, or the white community, or the Asian community, or whatever in Canada or in Saskatchewan — one out of four women will have faced or been a victim of sexual abuse by the time they are, I think it's 16 years old or 18 years old. So that's the whole population.

So we are facing a problem here and not only are facing it now, we have been and we will be in the future if these kinds of things aren't addressed.

So, thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I have another suggestion to make . . . oh sorry, Kevin, did you have a question because I don't . . . are you sure?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Because of the time constraints, we're trying to figure the best thing to do here. We have another presenter with us, Dale Grey. And Dale was slotted in for 11 o'clock. We're a little behind but it will all work out. What we sort of thought is — June Draude had suggested to us that maybe we should have a luncheon while Dale is giving her presentation. And so that might be something that would be really advantageous, and that way we could catch up on the time.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Is that going to be possible for members? I think we need to check this because members obviously don't have this scheduled. But the option that we're wondering about is whether we could, you know, get a sandwich and come back, and basically have a working lunch with . . .

And we need to also check on Dale's availability to pursue this. Okay, Dale. Well I think in that case we need to try to roll ahead as best we can now.

And, Delora, thank you very, very much. Valerie, thank you. Cadace, thank you. We're very honoured that you've come this morning and we thank you very much for your testimony.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — And I thank you also, and I look forward to talking with you in the future as I'm sure other committee members do. And we'll be in touch. Thank you.

We are most fortunate to have with us today a survivor of the streets, a survivor of a great deal of abuse and exploitation in her life. We have a very mature, wonderful, love-filled and joy-filled woman with us today by the name of Dale Grey. Dale as I mentioned is a former street person and she has said that she would offer us her story, and Dale, we're looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for coming.

Ms. Grey: — Thank you, everyone. I'm quite nervous so just bear with me. And it's good to see you all.

I kind of have some problems with what I have to say. I'm going through a lot of healing. Today I feel good. I don't feel dirty, I don't feel ashamed, I don't feel . . . I just feel good. I feel good but I'm nervous, so bear with me.

This started quite a while ago. I was sort of . . . my mother was always in and out of the hospital when I was a child. I remember far back as two years old when I was left running behind an ambulance crying. We were very poor. When I look back at pictures I would see myself dressed so poorly.

By the time I was four I was always wanting to be admired, to be looked at in a different way. When I turned five years old — I had extended family — and before I was six, just before I was six years old, I was still five, I was abused, severely abused. Sexually abused by family, so to me that's incest. And it just went on and on.

I was one of the fortunate ones that could go out of her body and pretend to be somewhere else or look down and pretend that this wasn't happening to me. To me I always had a little lamb and I'd play in the closet. While I was being sexually abused, I'd play in the closet with my little lamb or I'd feed my little lamb.

It's still very hard, so bear with me.

I was . . . I'd let these things happen. Today I know that it wasn't my fault. I let it go on and on. And many times I would . . . I'll be travelling around out of my body when these things were happening to me.

By the time I turned 12, my stepfather sold me to a farmer in the States. That was my first experience with knowing that there's money there. It went on and on and on. And I used to get beat up.

Fourteen — I was all over the place. I was working on the streets. I was working in Calgary, Los Angeles, all over the States. I got many lickings. I seen many people be beat up. I seen many people be shot. I was abused severely. I was hung in

a . . . in somebody's house. They thought I was gone, I was dead. And it was one of the . . . one of the johns that liked his sex very cruelly.

I done a lot of drugs to cover the pain. I done a lot of drinking. My drugging didn't just include marijuana; it would include cocaine, heroin, the works.

There was a man that helped me out of the area, that said this life wasn't the life for me. And I got out of it even though I still went years of being sexually abused because I thought that was the only way of looking — finding love in all the wrong places, I guess. I guess I was just minimizing all the problems that happened.

And something was brought up about residential school. Can I just sort of go back into that area? The residential school, we had authority figures. To me — I don't want to hurt anybody here — but the white society was sort of above us. And that was always the problem with me. I'd have . . . well, okay, if this white man is wanting something, he's going to pay big time.

And even when I was sold at 12 years old, it was to a white man. And I always thought that they had . . . they were sort of the authority figure.

Through that life I never . . . I was so poor that I sort of went along with any escort. If they bought me clothes, I was the proudest person with my fur coats and all. I was such a proud person at that time.

With this, with the authority figure, I never allowed myself to be mixed up with a Native person because I always thought that the white men were better because they had more money.

So with the mind . . . with that way of thinking, I was ruined. My way of thinking was ruined. That's why with the residential school too, I was also there and that bothers me. I would like to . . . I have a longer story, but I can't talk about it right now. I survived. I help people get off the street — younger children get off the street — because I don't want to see that. I'm a mother of four children.

One good thing that come out of my life was my four beautiful children — my educated children. I pushed them hard, I leaned on them, and I'm sorry for doing that. Today my children know; they're proud of what I'm going out and doing. I was always ashamed to tell them, well, geez you know, I was on the street. I was called a whore by the man I married. I was called a slut. I was called a squaw; that's what squaws are for anyway. They're just good for one thing and only one thing.

I have grandchildren today. And my children today remember what my husband was telling me — you're a squaw, you're a whore. And I married a white man. There were so many things he never let me forget, that I was there. It took years. I've been working on myself now for 10 years. It took years to be proud of who I am today.

With the authority figure, I'm very disturbed with this. Because sometimes when I'm downtown or anywhere — I go to Saskatoon — there's one girl that called me not too long ago

that I had taken off the street. I was threatened by the pimps. One john phoned and said they were going to kill me. But that's okay; I'm okay with that.

With the authority figures or what . . . to me they still . . . I still have that authority figure in my mind — that's one thing I have to work with. I have to work with . . . I also feel racist. And I know that that's wrong. I have to work with that. To me, the johns . . . You don't see anybody that's on welfare going out there and buying sex, that get \$97 every two weeks. You don't see the . . . our people from the reserve going out and buying sex with the little amount of money they have. It's the people that are in the higher bracket.

They've sent out letters of the licence plates of people that have been through the streets. That hasn't done anything. You still go out and they're still trying to pick you up. I was out there walking as old as I am — I'm in my 50's — and it doesn't matter I guess whether you have to, whatever. And I seen a young girl, this person, this john, going up and driving up there. I don't like it. And I'm begging for you to do something about this situation that's happening.

I don't think \$25,000 minimum would hurt anyone. That way you could take it and build safe homes for the people that they were talking about safe homes. I would like to see Aboriginal safe homes, because we are Aboriginal people. That way they can go to them and feel safe — because most of the people that we've been affected by were the white society — and to get into an Aboriginal home would be beautiful. I highly recommend that, to get in there and . . .

Because we have a hard time to trust. We grew up that way. We have an extremely hard time to trust. I've been on my healing journey now for 10 years, and I'm still going, and I'll never stop. And I think that we have a lot of workshops in our area talking about stuff like this, and it always seems to go back to the dollars. We never have enough dollars to do anything.

And I feel bad. To me, like one person told me one day an Indian always has their hand out there for money. We need the help. I don't think that I always have my hand out for money. I can go out a lot of times — without having that money — to help an individual. What I do, I am asking for the help right now to build something for our people, for the children of the street.

We always talk about children are our future. Well geez, it's pretty hard for me to look there and say, you know, do I want this kind of future?

I voice my opinions very strongly because sometimes they're not heard if I'm pleasing all the time — saying please, may I have this and that. And it's good for people to go out and tell their story. I haven't told all my story. I'm not prepared to completely tell my story today, but you will hear my story. I've been invited to different areas and I still have a lot of healing to do to talk about my story — about the incest, the street life, the things that happened to me. I will be going further with that. But I would like to see something done at the top level.

We speak about the incident that happened with . . . I always

say that we got to start from the top. If we don't start from the top, then what are we doing? We're always minimizing, we're always rationalizing. We rationalize for the abuser, for the abuser. And I feel left out because I've been abused. So what's going on with the abusers?

There's been in the paper not too long ago about an MLA being involved. Regardless, I mean how can he say he wasn't involved if he's caught with his pants down.

To me sexual abuse is sexual abuse. If the child is under 16 it's abuse, and they should be charged accordingly. I believe that. If a pimp is caught out there being a pimp, he should be charged. If a john is out there doing whatever he's doing.

I mean we all have children. Everyone sitting in here probably have children. Those johns probably have children. They have grandchildren. I have grandchildren. I don't want those things to happen to my grandchildren. The cycle has to be broken.

We realize when we talk about healing — I'm a great one for talk about healing — we wonder where people are coming from, what's going on here, why. See, that's rationalizing again, I guess, to me. But I also try to see, well where did I come from, why was I such a mean person, why was I such a person of anger? You wonder where are they coming from with no respect for women. I mean it's not only women that are prostitutes; there are men out there too. But I also wonder where's the hurt, what happened?

To me, fining these individuals, a very high fine for the johns would be . . . that way we could put them in different areas. We could utilize the money for a safe home, a traditional safe home.

My niece was crying here a while ago and I know what she was talking about. I didn't realize she was going to be here. I'm proud of her. I'll go to her and I'll ask her. I told her, I said, if you need comfort, you know my home. She's scared to go.

I have my home open. I'm not afraid. If anything should happen to me, I'll go for a good cause because I believe in what I'm doing. I've been threatened, called down. It doesn't bother me about being called down. I always know that if I'm called down, then I must be doing something good. I feel very fortunate that I come to be here.

But I would like to see the johns be fined strongly, if not jailed. I'm not a believer of jail because a lot of times when they're in jail, things don't happen. But if they can't get a big fine, then it's got to start up there. These johns have to be dealt with.

And I met some pretty high political people in my time. They were the tricks and the johns. So if I had to either go back to the States or be in Calgary, you know, I don't think they'd want to see me around. But that's okay. I feel comfortable in what I'm doing. I have grandchildren growing up.

I really believe in healing. I've worked hard in that area within my own life, with my children. And that's the only way a person can heal is talk about the issues that arise, talk about the stuff that has happened. I don't think . . . to me, I always tell people, give your tree a shake and see what falls out of it. We

all have issues that have to be . . . Some of us just had it a lot worse than others.

One of the hardest parts for anybody . . . and a lot of our people have been sexually abused, it's very hard for them to deal with. That's one of the hardest, hardest things to deal with because you never want to let go. You get hurt over and over and over again. And with that they went . . . I just went right through to prostitution.

I don't blame any more. Blaming is one of the worst things anybody could do. I'm just pleading to you to get the help that we need, to fine the johns, to give them a very high fine — \$25,000 isn't asking too much. Deal with the pimps. That way if you have no other money, then if we have money to build our safe homes — I call them safe homes that's why I was very surprised; I was coming here with that — I was very surprised they asked for a safe house, a safe home.

I'd like to see it traditionally run. We have a lot of power in that area. I've been just recently adopted to a family with a traditional man and he gives me a lot of strength, he prays for me.

I feel I can't go on. It's taken a lot out of me. I will be available and hopefully then I can get on with my story. I've got a lot to tell, and I'm having a hard time with trusting right now. I know you're all here for a good purpose but there's a reason I just sometimes don't trust, and I'm sorry about that. But I don't feel that I can go on right now.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you very much, Dale. You have offered us a part of your life and a part of your heart, and we're grateful for what you do offer us. And we're hoping that as you see fit and when you feel like it, that you can offer us more because . . .

Ms. Grey: — Right. You know my story.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — We all need to hear from you. And as you've mentioned, you know, if anyone shakes the family tree we've all experienced some form of hurt and pain in our life and whatever form it takes is, I guess, is specific to each of us as individuals.

And so the bravery and the courage that you've exhibited in coming forth in being a catalyst does sort of allow everyone to say, yes you know, let's talk — let's talk about what our society is about and let's talk about what kind of things we need to do to make it more wholesome — is very important in addressing this issue and many others.

We're going to, if you have the ability right now, if you feel that you can, would you be able to answer some questions from the committee?

Ms. Grey: — Yes I could. I'm just tired. It takes a lot out of me with this and I get tired.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes. Well thank you so very much. You know, you've had pretty well a lifetime story here. You've given us a bit of an overview. I'm particularly

interested right now in recognizing, first of all in recognizing that we are one society of many cultural backgrounds and that there may be some way that the bands or the Aboriginal community on reserve can play a role in sort of the healing process.

And I'm wondering if you have had any thoughts about that. You have mentioned you analyzed and you've realized and you've done a lot — there's a lot of thinking that does happen during healing. And do you see a way where there could be, I guess a link between on-reserve people to off reserve that we could maybe work at to sort of facilitate the whole healing process?

Ms. Grey: — We have been doing that. I have been doing that on my own. And a lot of times we're limited to dollars.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — What kind of things have you been doing to help?

Ms. Grey: — We've been holding workshops and I sort of, what I do is I also work with HIV and AIDS.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — HIV and AIDS?

Ms. Grey: — Yes. And regardless of who it is, I will come in and be with family. We've held workshops. We're just having . . . there's another workshop coming up with HIV and AIDS on the 14th, 15th, and 16th.

That's about all we can do. To me, I go out a lot on my own. The reserve . . . I try to open up my house for a safe house. So you've got to go through all this red tape, you know.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — And your house in Regina or on the reserve?

Ms. Grey: — On the reserve.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — On the reserve. Okay.

Ms. Grey: — So exactly — I don't know how else to say — they could be involved, you know. What exactly would you be . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Well, the reason I mention this and I'm going to be brief because other committee members will want to address here, but you know, it is such . . . there is so much, there is so many avenues, there's so much to deal with here when you look at sexual abuse, amen. There is also the component of women that are your age or my age, in their 50's, 60's. And Tamara's House in Saskatoon basically has an understanding that in order for future generations to be healthy, that women that have gone through sexual abuse to the degree where it's damaged them quite badly have a place to go, and that being Tamara's House in Saskatoon, where they can work through their anguish and work through their healing.

So I'm wondering if on reserve there might be some sort of thing could happen on reserve like that. If the band councils and the women on reserve and all those very thoughtful people on reserve might be able to find a way to start at that level on

reserve. So do you see anything like that happening?

Ms. Grey: — We have. We've also applied for this healing foundation dollars. They have this healing, 350 million throughout Canada, so to me that's not very much. It sounds like a great amount. The Tamara's House I believe is run by whom?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — It's by survivors of sexual abuse. They run it.

Ms. Grey: — Okay. By both areas? Is it Aboriginal and . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I think it's open to anyone. I think there are Aboriginal women that go there as well as Caucasian or any other ethnic background.

Ms. Grey: — I had a hard time to . . . See the reason I'm asking Aboriginal is, for number one, you're working on the street and most of the johns are not Aboriginal. So it's very hard to go into there and trust again. So to me the traditional side, the Aboriginal side, is . . . I had to go back to the Aboriginal people to get my healing.

Okay, so now this is what I'm pushing for on the reserve is trying to get something going. We have our therapists. We have a numerous amount of stuff actually. You look at . . . We have the NNADAP, we have the brighter futures, we have people that can counsel. But also I still think experience talks. But however, you have to have some higher level if you're going to . . . because you can do more damage to an individual than good if you're going to try and go out there and counsel, you know.

We have quite a bit of stuff happening. We have also people that can do the inner child, of bringing this child out, which I'm having problems with. We have a lot of stuff happening. But like I say, you go back to the dollars again, you know. European, you know. I still figure that we're trying to do a lot of traditional stuff but we're still stuck in that area.

I try to open up my house to different areas of HIV and AIDS victims, because to me I could have been there. Lord knows, I could be still there. So, you know, I sympathize with them.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — So culturally sensitive sort of healing is what you're recommending is needed?

Ms. Grey: — Yes, it is. You know, like I'm hoping that the people don't sound, make me like . . . I'm sorry if I've offended anyone in here, but in order to go out and speak about how I feel, I have to do this.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay. I have just one other question, and I'm going to ask you to be brief. In spite of . . . like we've seen or we've heard from a number of organizations and agencies in the province that are and should be helps towards I guess we'll just simply call it healing. Helps towards children on the streets. Some help too, you know, with drug addiction and with any kind of assistance along the way. But we also see the incidence of child sexual abuse on the streets increasing.

And so it seems to me that you know that you have a number of

agencies, organizations, government, the whole works saying this, this, and this and this and this are all in place, but the reality of the situation is, something is wrong because those things are all there, but the incidence is increasing. And I'm really very concerned about that.

Could you just comment on why you think this is; or what are we doing, what are we not doing?

Ms. Grey: — Because the johns are getting away with what they're getting away with.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay.

Ms. Grey: — The pimps are getting away with what they're getting away with. And if the pimps are going to get away with . . . well there's always the johns out there, constantly. I mean you don't drive the flashy cars that they're driving for \$97 every two weeks, you know.

So I'm pleading that they get these heavy fines of \$25,000. If they can go out and be buying every second day, they certainly have the money.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you. Committee members?

Mr. Yates: — Dale, I don't know if you'd be prepared to do this, but we've had many people talk about johns and so on and so forth. I'm wondering if you could give us some sort of profile of who is regular, you know, buying those types of services on the street, if there's any common background in your experience.

We heard this morning an example — 300 young people on the street in Regina. And then other statistics like 80 per cent that go to john school or whatever, it ends their involvement.

But to hear those types of statistics, there must be an awful lot of people either that repeat using the services of those young children or prostitutes, or else everybody or a large portion of society must be . . . And so I'd like to, I don't know, I just need some sense of if there's any commonality to any background, or is it a widespread, different types of people or . . . I don't know. Myself I need to have some sense of that.

Ms. Grey: — I think that I just mentioned too, that to me even when I was out there working it was the higher bracket. It was the . . . I had johns that were even police officers, you know. It's all kinds but to me it's more of the people that are in the higher bracket of the dollar figure. Is this what you're asking? Does it answer your question?

Mr. Yates: — I'm trying to get some profile, I guess. If this is a problem that's . . .

Ms. Grey: — It's arising. That's why I'm saying, if the johns are dealt with severely, you won't see the same ones coming around over and over and over. Sometimes I'll sit out there and watch and they're the same — they're the older men that probably have grandchildren at home.

Mr. Yates: — If we did something like Manitoba is doing, just using that as an example, where they seize the vehicle, and do

you think those types of things would be deterrents? Like if I had \$25,000, could everybody pay? I don't know. That's the type of thing. I'm looking at deterrents . . . you're saying deterrents would work to help significantly.

Ms. Grey: — I don't think seizing a vehicle is going to help.

Mr. Yates: — No?

Ms. Grey: — No. Because they'd probably have another one at home. They would go home, get their wife's vehicle, and use it.

Mr. Yates: — But I mean seize it and sell it and then they lose it as an asset, you know.

Ms. Grey: — Yes, yes, and sell it. But then they don't, they don't . . . I don't think they'd actually sell it in the end. Do they have . . . you know with the way the SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) works, there is maybe SGI would have to fine them highly, or I don't know. But there's got to be some way. But I can't see seizing a vehicle.

Mr. Yates: — In Manitoba they have a piece of legislation that allows them to seize the vehicle and they sell it, and the assets go to, or the money goes to the types of programs you were talking about.

Ms. Grey: — Right. But then if they're driving an older car too it's not worth too much, you know. Because they'll drive all kinds, but you see the same faces. And I can remember a face. But a name I can't because I never forget a face.

But if they're driving an older car, because you see them sometimes doing that. But they will be in different cars. So an older car, you don't get much for. So no, I'd like to stick to that \$25,000 fine. If I could.

Mr. Yates: — Well it's a good approach. Thank you very much.

Mr. Harper: — Dale, in Cadace's witnessing here and now yours, there seems to be a camaraderie of family involvement or family encouragement for the individuals to enter into the sex trade. Would that be very common with the young people entering into the sex trade? Would it be an initiative of the family that causes this?

Ms. Grey: — I think that, no. Well I shouldn't say no — some yes and some no. I think my mother was never, never got into the drug scene, never was a prostitute. She became involved with the man that sold me at 12 years old. So it varies, I guess, you know. I was surprised to see her today, and I was proud of her to be here.

I think also the whole family . . . we talked about the whole family needing to be healed. I highly recommend that. We haven't got . . . I also, I'm on a board for NNADAP for drugs and alcohol. We don't have a family centre in Saskatchewan whatsoever — the whole, as a family.

We have all kind of centres for individuals to go into, but nothing for the whole family. We have to either send them out of Saskatchewan, to Alberta or to Manitoba, which we don't get

covered by MSB (medical services branch) or nobody will cover us. So we're trying to . . . We run into big dollars there from the reserves again, you know. But to get a family centre going would be tremendously helpful in that area.

Mr. Harper: — I also am wondering here, and just based on both testimonies here, the use of drugs and alcohol is something that usually comes after the introduction into the sex trade business?

Ms. Grey: — Sometimes not. It varies. I work with young kids right now that are into drugs that haven't been in a trade. And I think sometimes when . . . I know that after me being sexually abused and being sold, that's when I really got into drugs quite heavily to ease the pain.

Mr. Harper: — Yes.

Ms. Grey: — You know, I'm not making excuses, but that's what I done.

Mr. Harper: — No, no.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Are there other committee members?

Ms. Jones: — I have a quick question, Dale. You've described the typical, I guess, John as being white. And I'm wondering, other than the family pimp, the parent or the sibling who puts a family member or encourages them onto the street, the typical pimp that would be outside a family, are they also white or are they Aboriginal, or Asian, whatever — non-white?

Ms. Grey: — It varies.

Ms. Jones: — Pardon me?

Ms. Grey: — It varies.

Ms. Jones: — It varies.

Ms. Grey: — Yes, mine was a white one.

Ms. Jones: — A white one?

Ms. Grey: — Right.

Ms. Jones: — And like, any kind of racial or, you know, percentages — mostly white? mostly Aboriginal? mostly non-white?

Ms. Grey: — I think that a lot of them are Aboriginal, you know. Yes. Especially if you're in the drug scene, they need their money.

Ms. Jones: — Especially if they're in drugs?

Ms. Grey: — Yes, yes. And I feel so bad for the children to be used, the girls to be used. Sometimes I wonder, well I wonder if they know . . . I was just talking about this when I was coming in. I said, you know the pimps have a mother; the Johns have a mother; the tricks have a mother. I wonder what's going on in

their minds.

Ms. Jones: — We often ask the question from the other side where, you know, the johns have children.

Ms. Grey: — Exactly. They also have mothers.

Mr. Toth: — Just one quick comment. I appreciate what you've shared with us and I think our committee should just make itself available. If there's some time down the road you have some other thoughts you'd like to share or some ideas or some views and visions of what could be done to address this question we're addressing right now, I think we should be open to that, at your convenience.

I understand and appreciate what you've given us today and some of the reluctances. I appreciate that because I sense it's not easy. To be honest with you, I myself as an individual, I have some hidden fears in regards to some of the Aboriginal community. There's some very fine people, very fine people, and then there is other situations where we read of and there is always some fears even amongst the white community in regards to some of the Aboriginal community. So I can sense what you're talking about today.

The other comment. You made a comment about the level of society. And I guess as we're sitting around the table here, we fit that role of an MLA. Most . . . all of us here are MLAs. And while I haven't had specific names, over the past few years I've had different ones mention about people who would be considered johns. And you're right — if what you're telling me is true, it's people in upper society. Maybe even the whole law enforcement agency, even the court system. And that bothers me.

Because here we are. We're trying to make laws and the very people enforcing it, there's people abusing that situation. I think we need to . . . That's an area that needs to be corrected too, because I firmly believe you need to walk the talk. And if you're talking something and you're not prepared to walk it, it's pretty hard to start enforcing that on other people.

And that's an area I'm grappling with too. We need to start setting an example before we start setting down some guidelines. So I hope, even as our committee, we can maybe come out with something very forceful about the fact that as lawmakers and as people who uphold the law, that we start setting some examples.

This is a question. I hope it doesn't offend you. Because of the fact we're dealing with a lot of . . . and we've heard a lot from First Nations, is there a fair bit of sexual abuse on reserves?

Ms. Grey: — I also sit on the police board and there hasn't been any. We've been really working in that area of sexual abuse after the residential school area. We've been really working on that area. So being on the police board, I haven't seen too much. Okay?

Mr. Toth: — The reason I ask that is because of the number on the street and then some of the comments of some of the witnesses. And like the question is, how do we work with it and grapple with this? But certainly it's . . . I think we all admit there is no quick and easy solution. We need to work together

diligently to overcome this problem. And thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Dale, I'd just like to ask you one question and I want to be brief because of the time. But I'm wondering if you've got from your years of experience on the street . . . You know, we'll hear from the police this afternoon and I know there are a lot of sincere members of the police force who've been trying to, you know, enforce the law.

And one of the things that I notice wherever one goes on the prairies is that the police seem to be having a very difficult time catching johns who are engaged in sexual activity with people under 18 years of age, and especially under 16 years of age. They can catch some of the johns who are after 16- and 17-year-olds by having female police officers pretend to be, you know, working the street and then nail a john that way. But the johns who are seeking sexual activity with children who are 15 and 14 and 13 and 12 are basically getting away with it.

And I'm wondering if you've got any suggestions. I think, you know, your statement about the fact that we've got to come down hard on the johns is absolutely right. In order to come down hard on the johns, we've got to catch the johns. And I'm wondering if you've got any advice for us on what we should be looking at in terms of catching the johns.

What do we need to be doing differently in our society? What do our law enforcement officers need to be doing differently? What do we need to be doing differently in a collective sense as well to actually nail some of these people? Because if we don't catch them, there's nothing to enforce. You know I go up to my home city of Saskatoon, I can count on both hands the number of johns who have been arrested for, you know, seeking sexual activity with children under the age of 18 over the last five years.

So I mean even when there are john stings launched by the police, you know, they don't nab more than a couple of people who are involved in having sex with children under the age of 18. So do you have any suggestions at what we look at in this regard?

Ms. Grey: — I think also too that a lot of times when I've been driving around they haven't been out in the daytime. The girls are going out and police don't seem to be catching them at a right time. There are certain time of the day, there certain time of the evenings, and also a lot of them are in the homes.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — A lot of them are in their . . .

Ms. Grey: — The children are . . . They'll happen right in the home — somebody's home. So they've got to watch that area especially if they're going to be looking at where the homes are drug-infected. They're doing the drugs heavily, they're dealing drugs. So sometimes these things are happening with the younger kids. That's what I've noticed.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Dale, just as a supplement to that, do you think that the police have a pretty good handle on which homes or where there might . . .

Ms. Grey: — I think so.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — You think they have?

Ms. Grey: — I'm sure they have. Because there's always an informer out there.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I'm mentioning that because Heather Forsyth from Alberta had mentioned to us that as part of the legislation that was introduced in Alberta, you know that the police would have the opportunity and the authority to do emergency intervention.

So without having to have a search warrant for a home, if they had reasonable grounds to believe that there was drug dealings or vice going on within that place, that they could intervene. And then, you know, they certainly have some responsibilities to reporting. But they could in fact, on the spot, do emergency intervention to rescue the children from that situation.

So I was asking that because I wanted your opinion on whether or not you believe that the police have a pretty good handle on which homes or buildings are being used for these kind of things.

Ms. Grey: — I can't see why, why they don't. I mean especially if they've been around for a long time. There's always people out there that are ready to tell them.

Like I look at child intervention of any kind of area. Child and family services, Social Services — they can go into a home, you know, if they figure that the child is being abused. They can go in.

And that's very important to me that the child, children be protected. I can't stress enough that these children need to be protected. I don't want them to wait. I'm in my 50s. I don't want them to wait until they're 50 to get better, you know, and have to live through that.

My children, thank God, are all educated. I was mean to them. I was rough with them. I was hard on them. But today I have the two boys and I have grandchildren. I have two boys and two girls and they're very well educated and they work hard. And yet they knew what I was doing.

And I didn't . . . that was the hardest part for me to tell my story, was to tell my children. And yet today they can phone me and tell me that they love me and they're proud of me.

And I do have quite a story to tell, but I just couldn't handle it today. I'm sorry about that.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you, Dale, for coming. And I know that when the time is right, we will be meeting again. And committee members will be most likely contacting you and we invite you also to constantly be in touch with us. And hopefully we can continue to work at this. So thank you so much for coming, Dale. It was just an honour to have you with us. Thank you.

Ms. Grey: — Thank you. And I thank everybody for listening. And if I've hurt anyone, I apologize. Thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — We stand adjourned, colleagues, until 1:15.

The committee recessed for a period of time.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — So good afternoon to each and every one of you committee members as well as visitors and staff of the Legislative Assembly. And good afternoon to our two presenters this afternoon. Two people who were so good as to come in to offer us what you know about the situation that we have regarding children on the streets, and particularly those children that are lured into the sexual abuse through the sex trade, through prostitution.

We have certainly a grave concern about this or we wouldn't be here today. But we recognize that many people throughout Saskatchewan do and have been really voicing this for the last number of years.

And so we're hoping to draw together all the powers that be and all the knowledge and so on from every sector and every individual that has a stake in this, and to come up with some recommendations about what we can do as a people in a province to alleviate this situation.

So Detective Staff Sergeant Rick Coffey is with us today and he happens to be the person at the left.

Mr. Coffey: — The good-looking one, as I'd say.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — The good-looking one over there. And along with him is Detective Sheree — and Sheree you'll have to help me with your last name — Sheree Gay. Okay I didn't quite remember. Sheree Gay who is also here to offer some knowledge of what she knows about this situation.

So, Detective Coffey, we'll have until approximately 5 after 2, somewhere in there, to be able to hear your presentation and also to ask some questions after. And we'll just ask you to get started if you would.

Mr. Coffey: — Certainly. Thanks for asking us to come. We hope we can give you some insight into the situation in Regina. We realize who the victim is here, although in our presentation we won't allude to that in a lot of cases. We're here to tell you what we see, what we think, what we believe, and possibly give you some ideas that you can soul-search that may help the situation.

Sheree and I will share this presentation. We're going to cover six areas on it. One is the perspective of the problem, some statistics, who we work with in the community or our community partners. We're going to talk briefly about our policies. We are going to suggest certain things you're lacking in certain statutes and make recommendations. And at the end, I'll leave my part of it behind if you wish to look over it and stuff like that.

I think I'm going to turn it over to Sheree here to talk about the perspective on the problem. A bit of history on Sheree. Sheree is one of . . . is a policewoman with Regina. She's an undercover operative. You see Sheree here today as a white,

blonde female. Next time you see her, you may not know it's her. Sheree.

Ms. Gay: — Thanks, Rick. This is one of my many looks, as Rick says, but this is the way I look normally. As Rick said, I've done undercover work probably for about seven years now. I also work in our vice department and regularly investigate vice-related offences including child prostitution and sexual assault files along with the undercover work.

What I would like to speak about predominantly is the police perspective on the problem of child prostitution, and I think the best way that I can illustrate some of the problems is to give you a rundown or breakdown on some of the cases, without naming any names of course, where we have come up time and time again against roadblocks that stop us or prevent us from doing anything with the problem.

We have lots of information. We gain lots of information regarding child prostitutions whether it's through neighbours that watch from outside their windows, whether it's from informants, whether it's from ex-prostitutes. We do have a lot of information coming into the police service about child prostitutes, underage women, and underaged girls and boys. The problem that I find from the police perspective is that . . . If you can visualize for a moment and if I can walk you through some of the things that we do, you could better understand the problems we come across.

My partner and I will sit in one of our unmarked cars, for example, in the dark, a block away from the stroll. We see a 12-year-old girl on the corner of the street. She is dressed in a short skirt. She is waving at cars going by. She is on that corner and from our experience we know that she is out there selling herself. As police officers we will sit back and we will watch that.

A car will pick her up. We know why that car is picking her up. The car has gone around the block four or five, six different times, slowed down. The child gets in and we will stop that vehicle because we as police officers realize what is going to happen and we do not want to see a crime happen. It's our duty as police officers to stop any crime from happening if we have any kind of grounds to believe a crime is going to happen.

So we will stop that vehicle. Now what happens next is we go up to the vehicle. The driver will say hi, how are you doing, act like nothing is wrong. Before we stopped the vehicle, that child and that john have already decided that they are not going to be saying anything to us. Okay.

So what we have, as police officers at this point in this incident, is we are trying to prevent a crime by stopping the vehicle. We have the authority at that point in time to investigate three things or to get three pieces of information: that is a driver's licence, proof of registration to that vehicle, and to check to see if there is any signs of impairment on that driver because basically, as police officers, when we pull a vehicle over those are the three things that we're authorized to do unless we have grounds to believe that there's something else going on.

So when I pull that vehicle over and I approach the driver and I

ask him for his driver's licence and his registration and he complies, and I see no signs of impairment, and I ask him who the young girl is and he tells me that it's none of your business, basically as a police officer I have no grounds to arbitrarily detain him any longer.

If he tells me that that is his niece, doesn't tell me what her name is, doesn't tell me why she was on the corner or refuses to answer those questions for me, I have no alternative but to let him proceed. Because as the law states at this particular time, I don't have enough reasonable grounds to believe, based on the fact that that child was standing on the corner, that that crime is going to be committed — as the law stands now. So I can't explain to you how heart-wrenching it is for me as a police officer to let that john drive away. So that's one incident that happens time and time again.

I think the biggest problem is these children are taught not to say anything. They view the police a lot of times as if we are the enemy. A lot of times this is a family business, so to speak. There are times that we go out and we see mother on one corner and daughter on the other.

The law, or the charge of soliciting, if you read the charge, in order to get evidence for a soliciting charge or a procuring charge or an invitation for sexual touching is all the key evidence to these charges. The key evidence is the word communicate. You must communicate for the purposes of sex.

If we're not privy to the communication going on in those vehicles, the john and the girl, then unless that girl or that john wants to turn on the other one and become a witness for the Crown, we have no evidence and the police hands are tied completely.

And we see it happen time and time again and there is absolutely nothing that we can do. The children, for one reason or another, will not or usually do not tell you that they're out there selling their bodies. They're getting money, they're getting candy, they're getting things that they want, and they do not want to . . . They have no reason to tell you as a police officer what that john has asked them to do. The john, on the other hand, will not incriminate himself and will not say anything about whether the girl said anything because he wants the girl. They know that if they don't say anything about one another that we have no choice but to let them carry on.

And they get smarter and smarter and smarter every year about what to say and what not to say. As an undercover officer I can assure you that seven years ago, which was one of the very first times that I stood on the corner and pretended I was a prostitute, and it was quite easy to get the elements of the charge from the johns that were pulling over. They would tell me quite readily what they wanted and tell me quite readily without any kind of hesitation the elements I needed to lay the criminal charge.

Seven years later, which isn't a very long time, it is getting more and more and more difficult. These johns are educated by the prostitutes; they're told what they should say, what they shouldn't say. Lots of times because of the reason of officer safety, I cannot, you know, jump in with them or go to certain houses. And they know that there are tests that they can do to

prove to themselves whether they're dealing with an undercover officer or not, which makes our job even harder.

That's the police perspective and I think I can confidently say that most of the members that I work with will agree with what I've said.

We have lots of information. We have a system that we are looking into called the DISC system. It's going across Canada starting from the West; Vancouver has it. It's a computer system. It's called DISC — which stands for to deter and identify sex trade customers — where all of convicted and sex offenders are put on the system, where prostitutes are put on the system so that — because they're very transient — so if they're on the system and they move from Vancouver to Regina, we're able to access that.

However, that's not the stone wall that we face. We have lots of information. We distribute our information very effectively. The stone wall or the block that we do have is in the law and in obtaining the evidence that we need to make a conviction. Even if we didn't want the conviction, even if this was a 12-year-old child that we felt was in need of protection, we still must have evidence to believe that they are in need of protection. And unless we are able to use the fact that they're standing on a corner as evidence, we are stopped from proceeding any further.

So with that in mind, I have to admit that the statistics that we do have are not worth reiterating here. The statistics that we do have don't accurately portray what's happening out there. We do not get very many charges of child prostitution based on the fact that we cannot obtain the evidence we need. So the statistics that are there are basically from children that have moved away or that have come forward for one reason or another, which is highly unlikely and very, very rare.

Most of these children that are procured and are on the street acting as prostitutes are on the street because the families put them out there or a pimp has put them out there, or relatives. And one way or the other, you're asking this child to come forward to lay charges against people that are their family or against people that they know that as soon as they turn around and go home, they're in a high risk of being beat up or hurt or something.

I do lay a few procuring charges, and most of those people that I deal with have moved right out of town and laid that charge from a different province. And that's the only way that they feel they can do it. So the statistics, as I said, are not accurate from what we have.

We do work with a lot of people in the community. Just to name a few, we work with the Children's Justice Centre. We work with SWAP, which is the Street Worker's Advocacy Project, Rainbow Youth, ACCAR, which is the Action Committee for Children at Risk. And we do try to work co-operatively with those groups.

But as I say, from the police perspective we really do feel that you can up the punishments all you want, you can do all of those type of things, but if we cannot obtain the evidence to lay any particular charges, that's all in vain to do anything that will

up penalties or such. Rick.

Mr. Coffey: — We take every opportunity to lay whatever criminal charges we can against the johns — is one class. The perps, perpetrators, are the other class. Perpetrators are the stalker types in the child prostitution.

Do not for one second think that the work done on sexual assaults at the Children's Justice Centre that occur within family units is the same as a child that is out on the street prostituting he or herself. There are absolutely different methods of investigating there, although be it very strongly the child that's abused in the family setting by grandfather, uncle, brother — whatever it may be — is very, very likely to end up out on the street corner, high percentage.

One of your key indicators to a child that is into, dabbling in, or about to enter street prostitution is their history of running away. Running away tells you right away there's either a family problem, a school problem, but a family problem. You'll find in research and from other presenters, it's as low as 73 per cent of the people and as high as the mid-90s, that that is an indicator of somebody that's about there. Runaways, acting out.

Sheree's spoken about how we view the prostitute — and I hate that word but — out there. We do believe that they are the victims. They are the victims somewhere in this, at some point. They are — start, finish, middle — they're always the victim.

Understand very clearly that I have some very good friends that were in the business, that were actually working the streets through the escort agencies out there and they are now out of it. But I have some very good friends and they tell me a lot of the stories.

What I would like to deal with here is how the community, the citizens that live in the community, what they view as . . . I'm going to deal with some recommendations. They are only three. They're broad-based. You feel free to ask any questions at any time about them. I'll try and define them closer up for you. And I'm going to read this.

Prostitution is not a victimless crime. Prostitution is a major problem for citizens of Regina. Regina's communities can be described as the victims. So now we have which — the second victim or the 101st victim?

The nuisance aspects of street prostitution include but are not limited to increased traffic and hazards of johns cruising, problems associated to the drug trade, intimidations and harassment of neighbourhood residents, and the prostitution debris. We all know what prostitution debris is — the spikes laying over the fence in your yard that your kids pick up, the condoms laying around. This creates a climate of fear, anger, helplessness, and despair and causes the residents to lose pride in their neighbourhoods.

It affects the daily activities of businesses. And the communities become even more rundown creating further problems as the businesses leave.

Regina communities affected by prostitution are demanding

action and residents want to know that prostitution activities . . . want it known that prostitution activities are not welcome in their area.

We believe that positive change can be accomplished through partnerships — “we” is the police. They must be comprehensive, they must be integrated, and they must be co-operative between police services, neighbourhoods, social and community agencies, educators, and the community at large, a very broad-based community at large. That means everybody.

Issues and recommendations. Issue number one. There must be federal legislative changes. You should be aware the Supreme Court ruling of *R. v. Westendorp*, (1983) 2 WWR 385 which said municipalities cannot pass bylaws which affect the freedom of individuals.

As police we recognize that the use of section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada has limited success in controlling street prostitution. We believe that reforms in the area of municipal licensing, The Highway Traffic Act, and public health law would and could have an increased effect on success here.

This is the recommendation for issue number one: that the provincial Assembly lobby the federal Minister of Justice to amend the Criminal Code to allow provinces and municipalities to implement legislation regarding nuisance problems associated to prostitution. Nuisance problems, the traffic, the driving around, the litter, the obstruction stuff. That’s our recommendation on that.

Issue number two is The Highway Traffic Act. Bearing in mind if you’re successful in one, Saskatchewan should pass provincial legislation which allows the seizure of a motor vehicle where a police officer has reasonable grounds, reasonable grounds to believe that it has been used in connection with section 211 of the Criminal Code, that’s transporting a person to a bawdy house. Section 212 of the Criminal Code, which is procuring. That’s picking the girl up under age. You’re all aware from your other presentations about the various age ladder.

And section 213 which is the offences in relation to prostitution. Our recommendation to that issue is that the committee evaluate the effectiveness of the systems in Manitoba and the option of a monetary fine system and the impounding of johns’ vehicles to determine if similar amendments to The Highway Traffic Act should be implemented in Saskatchewan. Now you have an example in Manitoba.

Ontario is considering and moving along. Another example is Miami, Florida, in the Dade County area. I’m suggesting that you would consider the option of fines in the 1,000 to \$1,800 to get their cars back.

Issue number three. This runs along with the DISC system that Sheree mentioned. As of right now there is no valid reason in the Criminal Code to photograph either the john or the working person. Working person — this definition is the person out on the street. We use the grey area. You’re in a public place and

we take their pictures and we reference those pictures.

What we are attempting to do is if we’re called on that, we don’t have a lot of legs to stand on. They want to reference it. It’s being suggested and we’re attempting to work with Justice here where if we start an undercover operation, during the business hours of that undercover operation whether it goes from 8 to 6 in the morning or 6 to 4 in the morning, where we can detain the john in cells, public safety short form, and in that, put that person right up against that same white wall, along with a hundred other ones over the period of days and take exactly the same photograph, and they’re available for lineups.

So that gets into issue number three, which is section 213 is a hybrid offence. Right now section 213 is only a summary offence. No rights to fingerprinting and photographing. Therefore police cannot photograph or fingerprint the offender. Nor is the offence registered in Ottawa as a criminal conviction because you cannot fingerprint or photograph; therefore it’s not registered, and it does not show up in Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon that this person has been convicted of solicitation or — sorry, not procuring — solicitation.

By changing this to a hybrid offence, which means indictable or summary — you can choose — we would have a better tracking of the prostitute and the john offender. The better tracking for the prostitute is some of them are highly mobile and they disappear. So you’re able to put two and two together and that again works in this system also as to who that is.

The key thing is the john offender. The john offender is highly mobile. And they’ll pop up in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon and Calgary and Edmonton. The ones that are really highly mobile and go that far are the perpetrators. They are the vicious ones. They are the ones that beat the girls, beat the guys, kidnap them, forcible confinement, do whatever their deeds are, throw them out. We really want to keep track of them.

So the recommendation is that the provincial Assembly request the federal Minister of Justice to change section 213 of the Criminal Code to make it a hybrid offence. In other words, the old term some of you may be familiar with — dual offence; new term — hybrid.

Issue number four. This is kind of more about the initiatives in Regina. We will continue undercover operations directed at johns with a perfunctory towards the girls on the street to keep the residents in the areas happy. So they see some enforcement.

We are partners and support very highly the prostitution offender program, which is the johns school. We support that. That costs a john \$400 to go to that. So \$400 plus a thousand, 1,800 for a car.

We support . . . participate in the Crime Prevention Commission five-part strategy that you heard from Terry earlier on today. We’re active in the action committee, the ACCAR part of it. That’s where we’re really active, in the help side, that kind of thing.

And we do not as an organization support a red-light district. The reasoning behind that is however you control the red-light

district, you'll put the clean, medically approved individual behind that glass window, it's still not going to have a place for the intravenous user. The intravenous user is still going to be on the street. So we don't support the red-light district in any way, shape, or form.

And I'd like to conclude with a conclusion. This is an excerpt from the Criminal Intelligence Services Canada Sexual Exploitation of Children 1999. It's very fitting to what we in the Regina Police Service feel. And I'll read it as a quote. The Regina Police Service endorses the C.I.S.C. (Criminal Intelligence Services Canada) statement which, quote:

recognizes that criminal sanctions, alternative measures or Child Welfare Legislation, in many cases, are not the best or (the) only method to deal with the issue of youth prostitution. Society should first seek to prevent youth from becoming involved in the sex trade.

Catch them early. Identify them early.

If they do become involved, it is essential that services be offered to reduce the harms of the sex trade and to provide support for youth exiting the (service) . . . trade.

I made reference to several friends that I have. They just had a devil of a time. Just a devil of a time in dealing with stuff out there.

Research and consultations suggest that access to appropriate services, personal support from a caring adult or peer, counselling for personal and family problems, substance abuse treatment, anger management (training and), life skills training would have been of benefit to some (of these) . . . preventing them from becoming involved in prostitution or reducing some of the factors that kept them in prostitution.

Or assisting them after they have made the decision to leave the business.

Every one of my friends have had a severe addiction problem — severe addiction problem. And that monkey on their back kept them out there. So it's very . . . it really necessitates the substance abuse program. And it goes back to the front page of these partnerships working together with . . . They must be comprehensive, integrated, and co-operative.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Rick and Sheree, we want to thank you both very much for an excellent presentation. And we have time for questions. And I'm going to invite other members of the committee to ask questions. I have some questions of my own which I'll leave for the moment. Arlene, did you want to ask a question for starters?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes, I've got so many. But we always have this time constraint and we will have to do something about this in the future.

But what I wanted to refer to Sheree, when you were speaking

of, you know, the problem that police have with their hands being tied because in order to get evidence you have to have, you know, some evidence of communication and you just can't seem to get that so you don't have . . . your hands are tied.

And we've been, you know, hearings from . . . yesterday we heard from people in Alberta and Manitoba. And Manitoba, the person there primarily talked about their Highways Traffic Act and how they've been able to seize vehicles and that kind of thing, and informed us on how that was working.

From Alberta we talked with a number of people. But we talked with a legislator about the new legislation that they have in regarding the authority, the extra authority police are given to apprehend a child — not the john, but the child in the case where you believe there's reasonable and probable grounds. And reasonable and probable grounds could be that you have seen that child in that area before, that you've seen the car go around and around the circle, the block, ready to pick up. That would be most likely reasonable and probable grounds.

Now that part of the legislation is geared towards assisting the child to take them to a place of assessment just to see what their situation is and to help them on from there. It doesn't exactly target the johns except the component of the legislation that does have the increased fine for convicted johns.

So what I'm thinking though is if that legislation were sort of adopted in Saskatchewan, your hands wouldn't be tied as much because you would then be able to do emergency intervention just without a warrant, etc. And do you think that, you know . . . I know and I was going to mention to you another part of that legislation is that if there is anyone that interferes with the healing of a child, once that healing is in progress, that they are also subject to this large fine.

Now the healing process is from the time a child is taken to assessment or whether they're in a foster home, or whether they're not. It's, you know, from the time of assessment. And so any time that child would be taken for assessment or one child would and then return, somehow end up back on the streets, you would have that part of the legislation that would come into play where there is interference by a john with that child's healing, because the healing has already started.

Anyway, in respect to that legislation, do you think that and can you see that as being helpful in Saskatchewan?

Ms. Gay: — I think it's helpful but I think there's other things that are necessary as well. This is multi-faceted, this problem, and I think to help us untie our hands a little bit as far as getting evidence, to at least allow us to intervene for the child's welfare is definitely going to help.

Now a problem that you're going to fall into once we have that child in our custody — and we have them as far as intervening — where does that child go from there? That's the second problem.

These children a lot of times are sent out on the street by family members or what have you. They're more scared to go home than they are — like after that happens — than anything.

They're not going to say anything. So I think the second problem . . . If you free our hands up, that's great, it's a good start. But it's not going to help unless the other aspects are also put into play as far as where does that child go from there.

What options do we have open to that child that will help him or her in taking . . . or having options that are better for them? I think that's the biggest, as Rick had stated, that's the biggest problem.

They have a home that puts them out on the street, or some of them do. So what do you do with them after? We take them and we put them into mobile. But what happens to them; are they sent back home? And are they going to say, yes it's my mom that put me out or . . . They're loyal to whoever puts them there; they're not going to say.

So I agree with you that it is going to help us and it will help us. But all I want to explain is that there's more . . . there's you know, instead of just putting one thing in effect, you've got to put the whole package together, not just the one. Because it's like dominos — sooner or later you'll roadblock yourself again. And we have to ensure that's why this multi-faceted approach is best.

We have to ensure that we help the police, we help the people that are trying to get them off of drugs, we help the family, we help the schools. We have to do this from a perspective of . . . of you know, loads of different perspectives. So that would help us, but I wouldn't like to see it stonewalled somewhere down the line from there because then you're not accomplishing anything again.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — So what you're saying then from what I hear is that a strategy has to be put in place. When a strategy is put in place, it has to be multi-faceted so that we're all working in tandem with this, and that all of the needed services are in place to assist that child and so on. And at the same time there is something legislators can do, as far as what Rick had mentioned about legislation or if you want to talk about fines. So that's the other area. Okay, thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Kevin had a question.

Mr. Yates: — It could be for either Rick or Sheree. It really goes to . . . changes in the Criminal Code we can lobby for but are largely outside our control. And lobbying doesn't necessarily result in significant change or else I think . . . police agencies have been lobbying for a number of years.

Have you thought of any other ideas that could be looked at to deal with some of the concerns you're dealing with about identification through perhaps The Highway Traffic Act or other pieces of legislation. As an example, things like now stop light or red light cameras and things like that. You know, is there possibilities to make it legal to photograph licence plates under The Highway Traffic Act for going too slow through a residential neighbourhood or being, you know, suspicion of being involved in . . . Are there other ways to sort of make it to embarrass or to put pressure on johns to be less visible, less public?

Mr. Coffey: — There's the highly talked about and in some jurisdictions the letter that goes out to the individuals saying your plate number, your vehicle has been seen in the area or you have been seen picking up a known, kind of thing.

I'm really torn with that. I'm really torn with that, and I'll freely admit it. You're solving one problem, or are you creating another victim. I'm not talking about the john. Or are you really creating another victim.

That john's out on the street. We know some of these people are IV users. We know what comes from dirty needles, and that john's taking that home. Again, is the wife, is the family, should they be told about hubby being on the stroll? I don't know. That's beyond me. That's beyond me.

I will say, anything that you can strike the john dead with a wooden peg in the heart is a good thing, is a good thing. The stopping of them in the area legally to have some piece of support to stop that vehicle. And I'm not talking about stopping it because it has one licence plate, or a tail light is burned out. We use those. We use those already.

To have something written in The Highway Traffic Act to assist us there, that's a bonus, that is a bonus. Because that gives us a look in the car. A look in the car, you might see the bad things to be seen in there on that. I really like anything to do with the vehicles. I really like that. I really like the idea of seizing the john's vehicle. You've got to have the evidence and I'm not talking about something loosely written that can be abused. But something that's there, I really like that.

That goes a long way to cleaning up a lot of the residential stuff and that, because now they have to start walking or riding their bicycles.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — June had a question, and Caroline. June, why don't you go first.

Ms. Draude: — Rick, when we had some of the presentations yesterday, we talked about some of the changes that were made in Alberta and Manitoba, and I was questioning whether this would just drive some of the action underground. What do you feel on that?

Mr. Coffey: — Certainly it would. It would drive some of the action to the escort agencies. Now the escort agencies are prostitution-related escort agencies. There are three types of escort agencies out there, okay. There's the above board ones, there's the stripper kind of agency, and then there's a prostitution-related agency. There are three separate kinds. Yes, it would drive them indoors.

Do you create more issues there? Yes you do. But I think your pressing concern right now and for the next few years is the street, the visible . . . the high visibility stuff. On that, we'll deal with the other through various other investigative means that we have for stuff that's indoors. It's a little different situation.

Now the government, federal government, did help us in the fact that for undercover operations like . . . well I can't, but Sheree can make herself appear to be under 18 and you can do

them up for that. And that hasn't been tested all the way to the Hill in Ottawa.

The other major beneficial item to us was they changed it from a public place — the communications section — from a public place to any place for 18 or under. That really helps us out.

I hope I answered your question.

Ms. Jones: — You stated, or Sheree stated, that the statistics are quite useless. But just for our interest, what are your statistics? And I'm particularly interested in the under 18 statistics, the 18 and under. How many children do you think there are involved?

Ms. Gay: — Like I said, keeping in mind this is very, very inaccurate as far as what's out there.

Ms. Jones: — Well you have statistics . . .

Ms. Gay: — Yes.

Ms. Jones: — And I'd also be interested in your thoughts on what they actually are.

Ms. Gay: — 1999, last year, youth 16 years of age and under involved in prostitution-related incidents were . . . the number of police incidents that we have on file for 1999 were 15. Similar in 1998 were 13; 1997, 16; 19 . . . 12. They've maintained about the same over the last five years. That is, like I mentioned, grossly inaccurate. These are strictly reported incidents to police.

What was the second part of your question?

Ms. Jones: — What you believe the actual numbers to be based on whatever . . .

Ms. Gay: — I can only take an educated guess. We have at one time looked at all the prostitutes that we have charged in Regina and they are up around the number of 900.

Ms. Jones: — Including adults?

Ms. Gay: — Everything.

Ms. Jones: — Okay.

Ms. Gay: — And I would guess, or take an estimated guess, that one-third of those are under 18. But that's an educated guess.

Ms. Jones: — We actually heard some numbers this morning that guesstimated or projected 300 youth prostitutes, youth-abused victims.

Ms. Gay: — Yes, so we'd be close. So considering that there's 15 police reports, that gives you an idea that that doesn't touch the numbers.

Ms. Jones: — Of those 15 on file, how many resulted in convictions?

Ms. Gay: — To tell you the truth, I don't have that with me.

Ms. Jones: — No? That's fine.

Ms. Gay: — I couldn't say.

Mr. Coffey: — What happens to our statistics is we're tied into StatsCan, and sexual assaults under the age that are related to a stroll or related to prostitution are in one way; procuring goes another way. We have it worked with Sask Justice, and if you haven't heard from them, I'm sure you're going to be hearing from them about a policy.

The young ones, we actually do not charge the young ones. We take them, turn them over to Mobile. Social Services has some things in place. There's some bugs that have to be worked out of it. It's a very good idea on it.

Our stats are . . . I, we, they, would actually have to physically go in each day and count from the officer. The officer would have to keep a book to keep accurate stats as far as prostitution related. You have your weekenders, you have your one-nighters, you have your three nights a week, and you have your regulars. And I think you've all heard about them.

One other thing you have is the 12-, 14-, 16-year-old, and a lot of times family . . . the family has a 16-year-old and a 14-year-old, and they actually have regular customers.

You don't know what's happening unless you have a trained eye. A john pulls up to the front of the house, the actual house they live in, and they run out the door, get in the truck, the car, away they go — away they go. And a lot of times the 14-year-old . . . if the 16-year-old isn't available, the 14-year-old services that john.

Ms. Gay: — We do have people as young as nine in our statistics.

Ms. Jones: — Just if I could just do one quick . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'm sorry. Forgive me, but I'm going to ask members to limit themselves now to one question. And I know that that's a restriction, but the time is 2:11, and we're 11 minutes overdue now. I want everybody to be able to get in a question.

Mr. Coffey: — If it would help you out, Sheree and I could come back another day.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — That's very nice of you to offer that, Rick.

Mr. Coffey: — If you wanted some more time, type of stuff.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — And we may very well take you up on that. But I do want members to be able to ask their most pressing question today. So Don and then Ron, and I'm also . . . I also have one question that I'll ask. And then we'll need to wrap it up.

Mr. Toth: — The first one's very quick. Is this the Kipling

Coffeys?

Mr. Coffey: — Kipling Coffeys. And this is a guy that has 20 more days before retirement, after 30 years, 15 of which has been doing this business right here.

Mr. Toth: — I had a lot of questions here really. And I guess the opportunity to come back I think is excellent. I'm going to throw two quick ones in. You used the word, reason to believe. And I think you made a comment just a little later on that we need something that really identifies, so that there is some real protection out there too.

We heard some . . . This morning we asked about the profile of a john, and it gets up pretty high. And I don't think the police services are even immune. So what I'm saying is . . . And we're, as legislators, asked to put into place laws. I guess as legislators we better start walking the talk too, and certainly that was brought out.

But what I'm saying . . . a couple of things we need to take a close look at and I come back to what Sheree had mentioned. You pull a vehicle over, then let the vehicle go. The question I have is okay, you got your suspect, but you don't . . . because you have really nothing to go with — you've got The Highway Traffic Act — and when that vehicle goes, does that vehicle then release that child, or do you know? Do you do a follow-up?

Ms. Gay: — After I stop them, is that what you're saying? Some of them do because they're worried, but some of them, especially the ones that are experienced, what have you, they know that they're not going to be touched. So they carry on.

Mr. Coffey: — And licence plates, if a resident phones in a licence plate.

Ms. Gay: — Nothing you can do with it.

Mr. Coffey: — Nothing you can do with it legally, but what we do is have that registered owner come down and one of my investigators actually interviews them, puts a little heat on. You know you go careful, but a little heat. We push as far as we can.

Ms. Gay: — But basically there's nothing.

Mr. Toth: — . . . stopped a bit, at least the open door on the other side just . . .

Mr. Harper: — In your opinion what percentage of the children who are under age and are working on the streets would be put there by their families?

Ms. Gay: — This is a guesstimated . . .

Mr. Harper: — That's what we're asking.

Mr. Coffey: — It's hard to say. But what I will say to you, I've been here 30 years. There's some ladies out there — not out there, but the ladies around this town that have some very grey hair. When I was a rookie beat cop, they were on the street, their daughters have been on the street, and now their

daughter's daughters are on the street. And that's no guff. That is it.

A forest out there — poverty, poverty. I want the nice things that suburbia Regina has.

Kids. You drive in an area of Regina, you drive to southeast Regina, you drive to any of the areas that local MLAs are in, you look at the kids, you look at the 11-, 12-, 13-, 10-year-old going home from Hawrylak School, yada, yada, yada, not a thing around him.

You drive up to Albert Scott area, I'll damn sight tell you that nine-year-old knows exactly who's around him. It's environment, it's poverty, residential areas. What can we all do about poverty — do our little piece.

Half, I'm going to say half. And it's getting worse because now — and this isn't a plug — but now it's becoming more organized; there's a more violent end to it in relationship to street gangs.

I'm not going to go the next step because I don't have any evidence of the next step that I want to talk about publicly, but it's more organized, more intimidation, more threats, more harm comes to the individual.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I want to ask one question, Rick and Sheree, and that is you've given us some excellent suggestions about changes to the Criminal Code that we should lobby Ottawa for, and you've also given us some very good suggestions in terms of looking at the Manitoba example around amendments to The Highway Traffic Act.

Have you looked at the question of amendments to other pieces of provincial legislation that would in effect give you opportunities to continue to investigate, based on the evidence that you're seeing but can't act on right now?

In other words, you know for instance, can we change The Child and Family Services Act in such a way that if you see a child standing on a street corner in ways that make it seem pretty obvious about that she's seeking to be picked up, and if you see someone constantly driving around a neighbourhood that's known to be a stroll neighbourhood and then stops, you know, can we change that provincial legislation in such a way that you can continue to investigate the incident, that you can ask more questions than what's . . . can I see your driver's licence and your registration? In other words that you could continue to pursue the investigation.

Can we look at . . . Because we may not get the federal changes that we're looking for, but we are in a position to act on potential amendments to provincial legislation. And I'm just wondering if you've looked at that, and if you haven't, whether you . . . whether you might be able to and report back to us.

Ms. Gay: — Well I think any legislation . . . regardless of where it comes from, any legislation that will allow us to — based on what we see — allow us to at least stop the situation without them driving away is going to help us. Where it comes from — I don't think the place really matter . . . place really

matter where it comes from, as long as we're able to stop what we perceive is happening.

A lot of the things that we have looked at doesn't really stop anything. It may issue them a ticket or it may, you know, there's lots of . . . we have researched all different kinds of area. The Highway Traffic Act for instance has a really obscure offence in there stating that you can charge somebody that uninvitedly hops into your car. But it doesn't stop the situation from happening; they still drive off.

So I haven't really investigated — like you said — any areas in there. But if there are, by all means anything that would give us some kind of opportunity to stop what was going on.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Okay I mean the whole The Child and Family Services Act is set up to look at children in need of protection, and surely we can look at amendments there that would start to address this. Let's pursue that beyond today. I really want to thank you for coming. It's been an excellent presentation and we're very grateful to you for taking time to be with us.

And, Rick, if I could just say on behalf of all members of the committee, we wish you much pleasure in your retirement and we very much value your ongoing contribution, even when you're no longer with Regina City Police. Thank you for the 30 years you've dedicated to this work.

Mr. Coffey: — Thank you. Kevin knows where he can find me. I'm usually on the ball field. This guy over here knows where to find me. I'll leave these on the sideboard if anybody's interested.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you both.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — We want to welcome our next group of presenters. It's very, very nice to have you all here. And I want to give you the opportunity to introduce yourselves.

Janice, I know you're going to kind of introduce the other members of the group, so Janice Muir welcome. And I'll let you introduce your colleagues and we'll get underway.

Ms. Muir: — Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, honourable members, my name is Janice Muir. I'm a member of the board of directors of North Central Community Society.

In 1997, North Central Community Society formed its Community Safety and Planning Committee to implement and expand crime prevention initiatives in north central. As a result of a presentation before the Regina Crime Commission, we were able to access \$150,000 in funding from Social Services for the safety services program. The City of Regina handles the administration of this program and also provides a small amount of funding.

The safety services program is a leader in its field. Its successes can be taken to other cities across Canada.

I will now turn this presentation over to Christine Dieter — in the middle — she is the program manager for the safety

services program.

Ms. Dieter: — Hi. I guess I'll start off by introducing my staff. This is Karen; Karen's my right hand. And this is Marie; and Marie's my left hand. I like to have that right, yes. Karen Desjarlais and Marie have been working with us since day one. They're my intervention workers.

At the very end, we have Cammie in the back. And Cammie's also on our board and one of our main supporters on the board. And really helps us out when we need coffee at night and our coffee perk's not working — give Cammie a call and she'll help us out. But she's just excellent in regards to board support.

I guess I'll start off by giving you a brief introduction of what we say to our clients. And then I'll explain what the safety services program does.

Our clients would come and meet us at the RV and this is what we say: we are the safety services program for child victims of sexual abuse through prostitution. We introduce ourselves and we say: although our main goal is to stop and prevent child sexual abuse, our doors are open to everyone who may be in crisis.

As you see we're a mobile unit and our days of operation are from Tuesday to Saturday, 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., depending on the need. We are qualified counsellors and anything that is said to us is kept in confidence — if it has to be. Meaning that any . . . if they disclose . . . if the kids disclose any child abuse to us or if they're in danger, we do follow The Child and Family Services Act. And all incidents of child abuse will be reported and is reported.

What goes on on the streets is none of our business, but the minute you walk through our doors you become our business. You don't have to be in crisis to come here. You may come here for a coffee and a doughnut, or simply stop by and say hello.

We also do referrals to all resources available in the city such as the safe house, hospitals, child protection, police, detox, family support centres, and so on, and so on. We want people to feel safe and not ashamed to come in the RV. Your presence and your ideas are welcome.

That generally is the introduction that my staff gives to any of the first-time people that come through our doors.

What we are is a mobile unit right now. We're . . . Just wait, let me get it all focused. I'm really nervous here because you guys are elected officials you know.

A Member: — We're just ordinary people.

Ms. Dieter: — Yes, but you guys are elected officials.

A Member: — Doesn't matter.

Ms. Dieter: — You represent so many people. So in reality I'm actually talking to about 60, 70,000 people.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — You were kind of elected also.

Ms. Dieter: — Maybe not . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, think, well, geez, they picked me to do this. Okay.

Safety services program's primary objective is to proactively address violence and abuse of children who are exposed to physical, sexual, and emotional harm through prostitution. The safety services program is a pilot project and one of the first in Canada to proactively address child victimization through unconventional methods. The safety services program follows the Regina Crime Prevention Commission's five-point strategy to combat child abuse which occurs when sex is purchased from kids.

The safety services has been mandated by north central to provide a safe place for children to go on the stroll and to have temporary safe homes to address immediate safety needs. The safety services program became operational May, 1999. The RV has opened, opened July 27, I believe . . . or 23 . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, 23, 1999. Our safe house right now is a 31-foot RV.

What we do is we park out on the stroll from 8 till 3. We'll be parked out on Fifth Avenue, Fifth and Cameron — we don't drive around anywhere, we just park there — and we have the kids come in for the first half of their stroll. They come in, go out, for the first half. And halfway through their stroll, we take our RV out for a little stroll — to get . . . to keep it going, make sure it's functioning well — and the second half of the shift we do on Sixth Avenue, right in north central.

We've called our RV, Pisim Wikihk, which means sunroom, which is kind of taking a play into coming into the light.

We have two full-time staff that work in the RV at all times. We also have two casual workers that we utilize when these ones are sick or whatever.

When we first started, we had all these different ideas about north central and how rough it was and we had a lot of anxiety about having just women — without sounding sexist — but just having women in the RV and figuring out the safety and how safe it is out there. But the girls have come to grow and realize that it is safe. It's not that bad. It's not that bad and they feel comfortable enough just working with two females at once.

What we do in the RV, what they do usually is we'll have someone come in, they'll assess the situation — whether it be a child in need of juice or someone to talk to or someone that wants to go to detox — they'll assess the situation as soon as possible.

We've dealt with everything from just people coming by stopping for coffee to hiding a girl that was being chased by a gun, stabbing victims, cleaning up needle marks. They basically do all the front line work and they know all the kids that are out there.

We've talked about numbers that we've been listening to the police say. And like them we don't have any concrete numbers, but we have the same idea that one-third of the prostitutes out

there are under 18. The youngest we've been in contact that has been in our RV is nine.

But I'll keep telling you about the program. Sorry, I'm jumping around. The safety services have specific services and programming relevant to children and youth in need. Safety services currently offers a safe, friendly environment, one-to-one counselling, referrals to appropriate programming, coffees, juice boxes, and doughnuts — every once in a . . . well every day for comfort — outreach meetings.

In outreach meetings, what we're having is once a week we have different outreach programs come out. And we have soup and bannock with our clients and we have the outreach workers sitting in our RV for about two hours. I do this just to have a better networking involved with the different outreach programs in the city, and also to give the clients education into what's available for them and where they can go and find it and how they can go about accessing this.

And I think it's a really good idea to have other programs like come in for one hour or two hours just to meet my staff so my staff is more comfortable phoning this place up and saying, well this guy was in here, can I talk to him, and this is what I would like you to do. But to give it more of a face to each program; but to create that network all the way through.

And I think that's a big thing that's missing on the stroll is there is so much territorialism and there's so much programs not networking with each other. Like I feel that there are gaps, but I feel that the biggest gap is the lack of communication between agencies and to give each other ideas on the services they're doing or to go together on workshops identifying needs. But that's later on.

But at our outreach meetings we offer them soup and bannock. We got the soup and bannock idea because it was really cold in the winter and a lot of the kids were coming in and not eating and whatever. But the soup and bannock — I think it turned out really good — a once a week idea, but now we have to find funders that are going to fund us for this soup and bannock. But that's another thing. It was a trial idea, but as far as I'm concerned, I think it was really worthwhile doing it.

The second-stage housing is the second part of the safety services program. What we're doing is we're including the community involvement by training and recruiting possible residential homes for children and youth in need of a safe place to stay. The community homes would be available for short-term care for the child to start a healing process. The community homes will fall under the child and services Act, and development and planning is currently underway.

Development and planning meaning that the homes in my little reign here is going to be certified foster care homes so they will fall under the child and services Act where they will be safe places. And the idea behind that is the child — that's in need of a safe place to go at night — will be going into the homes which will be a foster home; and then an outreach worker, a family worker from different programs will be involved starting off with the child just at that stage and have the whole family involved in the holistic healing process. And the idea with that

is having it being directly involved with the ACCAR program and having the ACCAR family support workers working with the family once we engage them.

Ms. Muir: — ACCAR — in case you don't know that acronym — is the Action Committee for Children at Risk.

Ms. Dieter: — Yes, I believe they spoke this morning. But the whole idea behind that was a hand-in-hand relationship where we'd be the first contact right on the stroll and we'd pass the family later on onto the ACCAR program. Where we wouldn't be doing any of the follow-up with the kids at all because the ACCAR family support worker would be doing that, the holistic healing, all the way through.

We've also started safety services network. I did this to eliminate the territorialism and to have more communication with the different outreach workers. What we found when the RV started up was the outreach workers from the other program and programs such as Rainbow Youth, SWAP, street projects — all the different outreach workers — were coming into our RV and all meeting there. And obviously there was a need for the outreach workers to get together and be together and have a support network and just find out what each other is doing and what's going on.

So we kind of made it a little bit formal now and we called it the safety services network. What we have is the different outreach programs involved with it. We have everybody from . . . everybody that does street outreach right now. I can't believe it. For once, our last meeting, we actually got the whole, all the different programs, and that is a rare and a first to do that anywhere.

The whole idea, the whole mission behind that is to meet regularly, share information, and perhaps have a long-term goal of maybe putting on a one-day workshop or a one-day healing for the whole community — saying no to children working on the street. Kind of have it like a mothers against drunk driving idea, but have the network behind it and try and have it where the community can take ownership that the other is children working out there and it should not happen and these kids . . . and letting the kids know that they should not be working on the street. But to me that's the long-term goal of the safety services network.

But right now it's just to make sure we know what each other is doing and to try and stop some of the gaps in the services . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . oh yeah, and not to duplicate; and if we do duplicate, let's do it together.

Our program so far . . . I've counted 21 different agencies or programs we have worked with, ongoing, whether it being them coming to our safety services network meetings or coming . . . being a part of our outreach component or just referrals. But we've dealt with 21 different programs right now.

We've had over 1,400 clients walk through the doors. We've included 230 plus prostitutes in that number. We've had . . . we have about 90 under 16 that we've been in contact with. Now whether that's regularly, regular contacts or just one-time contacts, but we have 90 up there.

And the girls, we figure that we have 30 regular clients under 18 that work on Sixth Avenue. That includes Amanda who wants to quit but her drug habit keeps her there — IV drug use — and Brendan. Brendan's 14 — he's addicted to IV drugs as well. Brendan also — we've heard from the other kids, the working people there — that Brendan has AIDS. So I don't know. We can't tell if it's true or not, but we always have that where we have other prostitutes telling us that well, this prostitute has AIDS, full-blown AIDS, and she doesn't use condoms or anything. But we can't do anything about that.

But in regards to the AIDS education, we are working closely with AIDS Regina and All Nations Hope in having them do the outreach; every once in a while coming out and talking to the kids on the street and talking to us to educate us more on the HIV and AIDS as well.

The youngest contact we had in the RV was a nine-year-old girl. And about two weeks ago I think we had two 11-year-olds in at once, yes . . . and a 10-year-old.

So I'm done. Ask away. I also have pamphlets here. And we're having a community round dance.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — When is that?

Ms. Dieter: — On Friday, this Friday. What we're trying to do is we're working with another program called the community life project. And what it is, it is an after-school program providing sports, recreation, and cultural activities for kids out of Albert School. A lot of their kids that go to Albert School and go to the community life project are our clients that come into our RV as well.

So we thought it would be timely to get the kids at risk of being on the street and also the kids that are currently out there, to have our two programs together, and have a community round dance to incorporate the whole community, north central community to be involved. So hopefully . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes, that's a good idea.

Ms. Dieter: — Yes. Well I live in north central so I know what it's like, and I know all the kids there. I don't know many of the parents, but I know almost all the kids in the neighbourhood. My kids go to school at Sacred Heart. There's no bloody way I'll let my kids walk around there, but they go. They go constantly supervised in north central.

I'm moving out of the area for safety reasons, but . . . because my husband and I both work out of the area. My kids love going to Sacred Heart School. I'd never take them out of Sacred Heart School. Sure I'll live in the suburbs, I'll drive them everyday, but I'll never take them out of Sacred Heart School. But I won't let them walk down the streets by themselves for fear that they may be . . . I have two young daughters, nine and ten, and another one that's seven but I'm scared — who's going to be trying to pickup my nine- and ten-year-old walking to the store. So I live in fears like that. And there's no way I would let my kids walk around by themselves there at all.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you, Christine. We are all

eager to ask some questions and just to, you know, sort of interchange our ideas and so on here. But I'm always most eager but I'm going to hand the questioning over to the committee members. And if any committee member would please indicate whether they have questions.

Mr. Harper: — In your experience, how many, how many of the prostitutes on the street are children say under the age of 16, that are actively working on a regular basis in the City of Regina?

Ms. Dieter: — How many?

Mr. Harper: — Yes.

Ms. Dieter: — Like I could say like there's no concrete number with that, because you think about it . . . a lot of these girls or people that . . . adults that are working on the street will have a john coming by and asking them, I'd like a younger girl. And they're taken right to the homes. So we don't know anything about the homes in north central where the kids are hiding.

It's a really big secret thing. It is seriously secret hiding thing. You have to gain so much trust. Brendon, who is 14, it took him four months — four months — for him to tell us he was working on the street, but we already knew it. But we're not going to go there and say, well we know you're working on the street. You know it's up to him to tell us.

Mr. Harper: — Well what would your best educated guess be?

Ms. Dieter: — A third of the adult — we all figured, you know, a third of the adult. We look at our stats and everything, everybody that we've come in to, and it always works out to about a third. So whatever the third of adult the police talk to you about, we'll say a third is.

Mr. Harper: — So what number would that third be? What would your guess be that number, that third would be?

Ms. Dieter: — Two hundred and fifty to three hundred.

Mr. Harper: — Two hundred and fifty to three hundred children under the age of 18?

Ms. Dieter: — Under the age of 18, yes.

Ms. Muir: — Just in north central. And you also have to consider how many of the adult prostitutes began as underage prostitutes.

Ms. Dieter: — And I think a big thing too is realizing that not all these people are working constantly. They're working like . . . economic means. Just before welfare day, we'll have a bunch of kids out there. They may work only three or four times a month, but they're still working.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — So that's in north central, and there's other areas of Regina; like I know north . . . or south . . . one direction from the General Hospital, there's another area.

Ms. Dieter: — Yes, yes — core.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes. Is there, are there other areas in Regina that you could identify?

Ms. Dieter: — The only one we can speak to is north central.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay. Okay, are there other committee members that have . . .

Mr. Toth: — Now I came up with one. Actually, thanks for coming in. While we've been hearing a number of presentations, couple of things that come up very, very clearly in regards to the people on the street. Number one is self-esteem and the lack of it in regards to many individuals. I'm going to use the word individuals rather than saying girls or prostitutes, but individuals.

The second thing we hear a lot about poverty. And in regards to the poverty issue, would gambling or bingos or things like that have a major impact in regards to lack of funding in the home?

Ms. Dieter: — I don't think it's so much of a lack of funding as it is addiction; as a major problem is the addiction.

Ms. Muir: — I have some statistics. There is a 37.7 per cent ratio of low income working families in north central as compared to 16.4 per cent in the city as a whole. Twenty eight per cent of the neighbourhood are single parent families as compared to 14.9 per cent in the city as a whole. We also experience a high unemployment rate and a high rate of transient residents.

Ms. Dieter: — To look at factors like that and the whole involvement of the community schools initiative in north central, to me all the kids that live in the residences of north central are at risk of being involved in prostitution at some point — whether it's your friend doing it, someone you know. I believe that all the kids in north central are at risk of being involved in prostitution.

Ms. Muir: — Johns cruise our playgrounds. They cruise our school yards. When my daughter was three, I reported a gentleman stalking her, and she was only three years old. One evening alone he stopped seven times outside our household. These are issues that we live with on a daily basis.

The average household income in 1991 in north central was \$28,710 compared to the average household income in the city as a whole of \$45,671. But our children watch the same television commercials. Our children go to the same malls. They're exposed to the same level of consumerism: we want you to buy, buy, buy, own, own, own, and get status from this. But our children don't have the means of doing it.

Mr. Toth: — But when you say . . . Did I hear you correctly when you said 28,000 average?

Ms. Muir: — The average household income in north central.

Mr. Toth: — Because I guess personally in my view when we talk of poverty, it's much lower than that. Like the poverty line, or what a lot of families, especially people on welfare certainly wouldn't be at that \$28,000 level.

Ms. Muir: — No, that includes our working families. My household income is much higher than that so I would bring the average up for north central. North central does have people in the professions living there.

Mr. Toth: — Okay. One further question in regards to that. I would gather just from some of your comments that adding more money will not necessarily address the concern out there. Or will it?

Ms. Dieter: — No, I believe more treatment centres. Treatment centres for children. Treatment centres for women — whether it's drug addiction centres or just plain treatment centres to deal with emotional problems and parenting problems that they were never given that opportunity to have those parenting skills. And to have the whole . . . like there's no treatment centres in Regina for kids at all, and there are a lot of addicted children and a lot of addicted women.

There has to be holistic family places, family healing places.

Ms. Fraser: — One of the other things that would be most beneficial is consistency with Social Services. Financial services doesn't know what family services is doing. Family services will put workers in the home. You'll have a worker for eight weeks, then bang that worker's gone. You get a new worker in — it's a new set of rules, a new set of guidelines and there's the hassle back and forth between the two departments, and it leaves the families, the parents who are trying to better their lives, very confused. It confuses the children, it confuses the parents.

And there are people who do try to get out there and get a job but then you have the cutbacks. Well if you go to work you're going to lose this much money, you know.

So that adds to a lot of the problem in north central too — the inconsistency with Social Services and their policies: well no, this department doesn't deal with this, you have to go to that department. And it leaves . . . it puts us on a runaround, you know and we just give up, quit and next thing you know our kids are on the street because they're tired, they don't want to fight any more. They'll go and get the money the easiest way possible.

Ms. Dieter: — And I also think a lot of it, too, is like you know we have this systematic racism that follows all the way through. You guys may say it doesn't happen but yes it does happen. Systematic racism with the social workers. When we do deal with the hospitals we have different social workers that we have to deal with, but you know talking to them and saying you know, hey, we're legit, why don't you help us out, you don't have to talk to us that way.

Even like systematic racism where I'm asked to speak at a school — And you ask Cammie. I'll go there with the rest of the staff and they approach them first without — the non-Aboriginal workers — first without coming to me and, you know, I'm always pushed aside because I'm the brown one of the group. But I'm the boss, hey, look at me.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — June, you had some question.

Ms. Draude: — We've heard the number of around 300 a number of times and we have also heard that out of that about 80 per cent of the child prostitutes are Aboriginal.

Ms. Dieter: — I'd say more like 90. Actually the ones that we've dealt with, a hundred.

Ms. Muir: — Over one-third of the population in north central is of Aboriginal ancestry and north central has a little over 10,000 people there.

Ms. Draude: — That wasn't my question though.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — All right, June. Put your question.

Ms. Draude: — We've heard that number quite consistently, but I wondered when it comes to the pimps and the johns, are they mostly Aboriginal as well?

Ms. Muir: — The pimps are, the johns are mostly Caucasian.

Ms. Draude: — Okay. I was just wondering.

Ms. Muir: — And the johns are mostly not from north central. You can tell. Their cars don't have rust. Excuse me?

Ms. Draude: — When it comes to the pimps, what percentage of them would be Aboriginal?

Ms. Dieter: — I'd say about 90, 95.

Ms. Draude: — And johns?

Ms. Dieter: — 100 per cent non — non; 80, 90 per cent non.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — All right, other members of the committee wish to . . .

Mr. Yates: — I just have a question regarding . . . we've had numerous presentations today that talked about our problem in Regina being different than we've heard from Calgary and Edmonton, Winnipeg, yesterday, that a lot of the children that are on the streets today in Regina have at least support, if not actually being put there at some degree by a member of their family. And how do you suggest we best tackle that problem? Because it's not something in an enforcement issue or making a new law when it is . . . You know, those children's support mechanisms are those parents who — in many cases are brothers and sisters — may be encouraging the activity.

So it makes it a more difficult, more complex problem. And do you have any ideas on how we would best look at tackling that type of problem?

Ms. Dieter: — I think with our . . . I think a lot of people, non-Aboriginal people seem to forget is in our First Nations community the family is a big part of our lives, whether it be our immediate family or an extended family. Yes, a lot of our girls and our children are put out through their family members. But in regards to that, there's also good family members that they would look up to too.

In our kinship society, I look at my nieces and nephews as my brothers . . . as my sons and daughters. And in a kinship society, First Nations society, we look at that through that way. If your parents are unable to look after you, you have aunts and uncles, you have grandparents that are available there. And I think that's a lot of the things that's not understood — is the whole idea of kinship and how we depend on our families because we always had to.

In regards to the north central community and the high population of First Nations people that live there, I believe that we all live there because we have that network and we have that community support around each other.

My youngest daughter went to school at Davin School, and she was the only brown girl there and she totally hated it. And now she loves, totally loves Sacred Heart because she's not the only brown kid there. I think that comes with the families that move into north central. Why they don't move into Hillsdale is because they're the only brown ones there. They don't want their kids going to school and being racist about.

I remember my daughter coming home and crying. For a year she hated school. She would not go because she said no one would play with her. You know, and I'd never take her out of Sacred Heart because she's around her peers. But I can't tell what she's going to be learning on the playground. I can't stop that. All I can do is educate her and keep her well informed.

But in regards to your question, I believe that there has to be . . . I know that there is . . . with The Child and Family Services Act you do have a place where the kids can go to their extended families on a — I forget what it's called. It's a temporary custody — not custody, a temporary place for the child to go. But I think utilizing that would be most appropriate — finding an extended family for the child to go to and have the immediate family, the child's immediate family involved in holistic healing.

And I believe that the child should not be taken back into that environment until the family has taken that healing all the way through.

Ms. Fraser: — I'd like to add to that too. The kinship part is very important, but from the perspective of Social Services it has been my experience that they won't place an Aboriginal child with their grandparents on the basis, oh well, grandpa and grandma are too old, or well uncle lives here and he's been in jail before. It doesn't matter that the charges were like 10, 20 years ago. They look at that charge and, well, that's there, we can't put that kid there; that kid might be at risk even though it's something that's old, the person has tried to heal from it. They're benefiting from it. They don't want to look at that possibility because that record is there regardless of how ancient it is. And it could very well be an environment that is safe for a child.

But they look at those other factors. They don't determine the timelines between them. They don't really determine the health of the grandparents — can they really look after these kids. And most grandparents I know in north central could do better for their grandchildren than their mom and dad can. They chase

after them a lot faster than mom and dad do, you know.

So Social Services needs to take a serious hard look at that too.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — To add to that, Camillia, I've had the experience as an MLA of having Aboriginal grandparents on a reserve wanting to take care of some of their grandchildren. There was a major case in Saskatchewan not long ago, the Karen Quill case, where the grandparents said that they wanted to take care of the children, and really they were told by Social Services that their home did not meet the standards in order to have some of their children.

Now I was in that home and, I don't know, I guess it's a matter of judgement and I'm not sure how all that's assessed by Social Services, but what they said to me was love is more important than having, you know, wallpaper on the walls and so on. So that's the kind of thing that I understand what you're saying because that's the kind of thing that some of the Aboriginal people are dealing with right now.

Ms. Fraser: — Exactly. These children are raised that money isn't the most important thing. Your family ties, your blood, your bonds, that's the culture of these people and that's what they hang on to, you know. And if the grandparents can . . . if they can get to their grandparents and their grandparents have that opportunity to teach them that culture, that history, the traditions that's behind that culture can keep them off the street if they want to stay off.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay, thank you. I have just one question I guess.

Christine, or whoever feels they would like to answer it is certainly welcome to do so, I noticed that you had mentioned at one point that with the north central station there, as such, or the north central — What are you calling your . . . I'm sorry. North central community organization?

Ms. Dieter: — North Central Community Society.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay. When children come to you, if they come to you, and they are asking for some assistance, you will point them in the right direction as such?

Ms. Dieter: — Yes.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Or you know, to whatever — a detox centre.

Ms. Dieter: — Yes.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — What I'm wondering is . . . Because from what I've heard, there just is such a limited availability of space in every . . .

Ms. Dieter: — There is. There is.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — . . . every way and form for any kind of help.

Ms. Dieter: — What we're doing right now . . . My job is to

find . . . to start opening up these community safe homes.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes.

Ms. Dieter: — The idea behind that is to have like the foster . . . have the homes under foster care. But the foster family . . . the foster care system right now is so overloaded.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes.

Ms. Dieter: — I do have personal friends that have foster homes and they said basically that they're open. They said as soon as we get rid of these ones, we'll open our house to you any time. But I've identified some homes already, but it's just a matter of establishing protocol. And I'm just making protocol right now and identifying more homes than just two.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — See I'm wondering about many of the services that are on place in paper, but in fact are not in effect working because of lack of availability, lack of resources in that sense. And I know the police earlier today talked about Mobile Crisis, and, you know, you're talking about mobile vans.

But Mobile Crisis, I had spoken to someone who worked in Mobile Crisis a couple of years ago, and they said well, the police do go. For instance, if there is a squabble at a home, they do go and they will take the children. But the next day the children are back because they don't know where to take them from there.

Ms. Dieter: — Exactly.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — So that we don't have any services, follow-up services, in place it appears to me . . .

Ms. Dieter: — Yes.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — . . . from what I've heard from not only presenters to the committee, but from other people so . . .

Ms. Desjarlais: — The problems that we have, like, with the clientele that we work with is we don't have a place to put them. If we have a girl at 17 years old and wanting to come off the street, like at 2 in the morning, where do we put them? There's no place for them.

Like we phoned all the safe houses, and they will not take them because they're addicted and they're dangerous. And so . . .

Ms. Dieter: — And they're not domestic, abusive situations. But they could sell their bodies on the street, but you can't come into the safe house because you're not getting beat up by your husband — you're getting beat up by other people, but not your husband.

Ms. Desjarlais: — Yes. So we don't have no place for them girls to go when they want to get off. And so that's why we're trying to work on the second-stage housing. But that's another problem because a lot of the foster families don't want these type of children in their homes as well. Right? So . . .

Ms. Fraser: — See, this screening process does have a lot to do with it. Social Services will reject a charge if it's . . . Even if it's 10, 15 years old, they won't look at it. They won't look to see whether that former offender has turned their lives around and actually making something out of themselves, you know. It makes resources hard to get. Even a minor traffic ticket, they won't place you there because you've got a criminal offence against you.

Ms. Muir: — What you need more than just a home for these children off the street because they've been exposed to high levels of violence, high levels of other criminal activities. Many of them are addicted. They need extensive support services. A first concept . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, medical attention definitely — many of them need emergency medical attention.

Ms. Dieter: — I'll tell you how many first aid kits we went through the first two months. We finally ended up buying bulk from Jolly's Surgical but we went through about three major first aid kits in the first two months that we had to . . .

Ms. Muir: — But many of these children are left with permanent disabilities as a result of the violence encountered in these lifestyles.

Ms. Dieter: — In like, yes, simple, simple things, simple little health things that these kids have too that we deal with and they're not getting the care. Like simple things, like we give them coats, we give them mitts, we give them hats, give them a donut — just simple things. Cleaned up their needle marks.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I just want to commend you on your efforts to have — I forget what you call them — a sort of a gathering where you can talk with each other and so on. I think that really what women need to do is certainly to support and poll other women and especially our young women, those of us that are a little bit older, and we need to let them know there's a place where they can come. A place that they can be.

In the First Nations community, you mentioned that grandmothers and so on are honoured; that the family extension is really very important to them, the family commitment to each other. Well believe it or not, at one time and even in some areas, with the Caucasians that is the situation too. But I think we all need to come back or go back to the value of having sort of the circle of love in a home. It doesn't really matter what ethnic background we're from, but women need to reach out to each other and to our younger women, to uphold them and support them in their dignity. So I really commend you on that initiative that you're taking; it's important.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you, Arlene. I want to thank you for what's been an excellent presentation. I know you were a little bit nervous but you did a terrific job.

I wanted to look a little more at what you're doing around the second stage housing effort. And this morning when we were talking about the City of Regina's five-point strategy, there's kind of the immediate safety needs that children have in terms of kind of getting them off the street, and then there's the longer term healing. And we need to look . . . I mean there's many

elements in that longer term healing process and in the many elements in establishing safety in children's lives when you're first trying to get them off the street.

But in both contexts, we have to have some sort of a safe residential setting for them. And in a lot of cases it isn't going to be possible in the short term for it to be the immediate family home. It may be, as you were saying, that it's an extended family member.

What's your advice to us in terms of . . . if you could . . . I understand what you're trying to do in terms of establishing this second stage housing. Do you think that's the best place to start in terms of getting children off the street?

I know in Saskatoon and earlier in presentations here this morning we heard again the idea of a safe house. They have a safe house in Saskatoon. It's a voluntary safe house run by the tribal council. And some of the other presenters this morning talked about the idea of having maybe some kind of a traditional safe house run by members of the First Nations community in Regina.

I'm just wondering . . . I mean we'll need to make some decisions and the community obviously will need to make some decisions about what you'd like to see as the residential priorities. So is it your thought that you'd like to pursue? Is that your recommendation, that in the context of your neighbourhood . . .

Ms. Dieter: — Eventually, yes.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — . . . that we go to the second stage housing and try to locate people in individual homes, either with extended family members or with a foster family? Or would you sooner see the safe house approach?

Ms. Dieter: — There's a threefold idea to it. Our main idea . . . Like we've been mandated to find the foster homes. That's not our first choice. Our first choice . . . A lot of the ideas that I've been given are not my ideas but I'm kind of . . . I have to appease the funders.

But our idea is what we'd like to have is a treatment centre — a treatment centre for the kids that are working on the street. A main therapeutic home, but not only to encompass the kids but to encompass the whole family in a holistic healing idea. You start off with the kid, just start off with the kid. Taking the kid out, having the kid get treatment for their addictions because them being on the street is not the end-all, be-all. Them being on the street is just a symptom of some other big things that are going on in their lives.

So it would be a treatment home, a therapeutic home for these kids on the street to deal with their problems. I don't want to say . . . Yes, a treatment home, a treatment centre basically. And then to encompass the family, whether it be with an outreach worker that works right in the home or have the family attend the treatment centre as well.

But our biggest issue, what we're seeing right now, is the addiction and the dysfunction of family and the low worth that

they give to their kids without remembering that in Indian tradition we are taught that children are gifts from God. That these are only our gifts. They aren't given to us; that they're God's. They're God's kids. And getting that whole idea back into the community.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — In terms of the larger issue of kids on the street, of which the question of children being sexually abused on the street is a dimension, do you have any advice to us generally about how we tackle the . . . Like those two issues are pretty integrated together. If we've got 300 kids in your neighbourhood who are involved in the sex trade, we've presumably got many hundreds more who are on the street and therefore at fairly high risk of becoming involved in the sex trade.

I'm just wondering if you've got any advice for us on that.

Ms. Dieter: — Education — education to the younger kids, like the younger ones, Like public school board will not, will not — cannot — comprehend the idea that there's a nine-year-old engaged in sex for money. I remember working at Chili for Children and you had johns, old marks, phoning the school for a 10- and 11-year-old and no one could do anything. You know, you hear stories like that and nothing was done. The principal's screaming around at Social Services, well nothing can be done because we can't catch . . . we haven't caught these kids in the act. We don't know if they're on the street; it's just pure hearsay.

But I think education in the school system is a big one — preventative education. Education to parents in regards to what to look for.

Ms. Muir: — Education to the public.

Ms. Dieter: — Yes, education to the public because I don't even think that like anybody could comprehend what is going on.

Ms. Muir: — Prostitution is much more than a dirty joke and we need to let the johns know that we're not just going to stand it any more. We don't want to see our children and our young people exploited like that. We're losing a major, a major segment of our labour force. Children who have been through that level of violent sexual abuse and drug addiction very, very rarely survive into adulthood, let alone become productive members of society. And yet we've let it go on for generations, and it's becoming worse.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — How would you like to send a message to the johns?

Ms. Muir: — Shoot them — that always comes to mind, you know. Being a john you have a very, very low chance of being caught because the laws that we have in place say even though I know, even though I see that girl get picked up three times in an hour and brought back after 15 minutes that I cannot phone the police and have that man arrested. Because I have done that and the police have said, well, you don't know that's what she's doing. And I said that she's not teaching them piano lessons; that's not the kind of organ she's interested in, you know.

I have seen under-14-year-olds sitting on their steps with colds — I can hear them half a block away — finding it difficult to breathe on Christmas Eve. And we as a society turn a blind eye to that, you know. And there's an element of addiction in pimping. Pimping is a game. If you want to read an excellent book, there is a book called *Children in the Game* written by a retired police officer who worked in vice in Calgary. And that will tell you stories that will keep you awake for weeks.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Actually Ross MacInnes will be presenting to our committee on the 22nd.

Ms. Muir: — See.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I had read the book, but what I'd wanted to know from you in practical terms, like I can hear your frustration and your anger and your hope. I can hear that too in the group of you, but I'm wondering if you could just help us out by, you know, talking about the many things that can be done for the children. But the element of the johns and the perpetrators of this . . . of this activity I think need a . . .

Ms. Muir: — Make it affect their lives, make it a criminal thing for them, and make it prosecutable on the basis of slender evidence. We accept more slender evidence in cases of theft than we do in cases of sexual exploitation through prostitution. And make it affect their lives. Johns, johns — what? — hey, they get a fine, they're out of there, hey they're back to their \$50,000-a-year job and that child is starving to death.

Ms. Dieter: — More john schools, make the john schools last a week where they have to pay. Like I used to work at Regina alternative measures program and I really believe in the john school idea. But having the john school for kids and having them do this psychiatric thing for pedophiles, I think that would be an excellent idea for the johns.

Instead of, you know, going to court and getting the charges, they have to pay — immediately they have to pay a thousand dollars for them to go into treatment, straight out. And then do their treatment.

Ms. Muir: — And it has to become a men's issue. I don't want to sit in my job and listen to men joke about prostitutes any more. It has to become . . . if it is not a men's issue, it will remain a women's issue, a minority issue, and it will be sidelined repeatedly. But it is becoming an expensive habit for society to support. We can't support it any longer.

Ms. Dieter: — And I think another thing, this is . . . like there was a couple issues. I knew you guys were going to ask this. But I think another thing was to promote for one day — for one day have the whole community, all the residents, whether they're on the legislature or whether they're in north central, just have the whole community say for one day, no, to buying sex from kids. Just no. Just make it like a really big media blitz, like mothers against drunk driving or SADD (Students Against Drinking and Driving). But to have everybody say no, this is not right.

And the second one was with the Alberta legislation under . . . for the 72-hour thing. I believe. I believe in it. I believe in it just

because we see a lot of kids that want to get off the street but they can't because they're addicted.

Ms. Muir: — And they're addicted because they were made addicted so they could be put on the street.

Ms. Dieter: — Exactly.

Ms. Muir: — Like, you know, when we say they're addicted, right . . .

Ms. Dieter: — Yes. To get rid of that addiction, like for 72 hours, I'm sure if you put a child away for 72 hours, you know, just to start off getting that monkey off their back, because that's a big thing that a lot of girls talk to us about — the drug addiction. They're doing it to feed the addiction, feed the addiction.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Some of the young people, Heather Forsyth from Alberta mentioned to us that just for your own information that some of the girls — and a number of them going into a 72-hour safe place — are asking for a longer period of time. They want a longer period of time. They find, number one, they're safe; and number two, that it's beginning of a new life for them.

Ms. Dieter: — To me it would bring a jolt into the parents — you know, your kid got apprehended because they're working on the street, you know. You got to have some shame in that. But to me, that's really good legislation.

And even though I'll probably get my hand slapped around for saying it, but I recommend that.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Good. Thank you very much.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — We want to thank all of you for taking this afternoon and sharing with us a great deal of very valuable information, advice, wisdom. So, Christine and Janice and Karen and Marie and Cammie, thank you very, very much for spending the afternoon with us.

Ms. Muir: — We'd like to thank you for providing us with the opportunity.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you.

Ms. Muir: — We'll talk to just about anyone.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Members of the committee, we're about to meet members of the media. I think we should formally adjourn the proceedings first. Would somebody like to move a motion of adjournment?

Mr. Yates: — I'll move the adjournment of the committee proceedings.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Is that agreed? Agreed.

The committee adjourned at 3:20 p.m.