AMENDED ORIGINAL

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

IN THE MATTER OF:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- v -

N.A.

Transcript of the Reasons for Sentence delivered by The Honourable Justice M. T. Moreau, in Inuvik, in the Northwest Territories, on September 18, 2014.

APPEARANCES:

Ms. W. Miller: Counsel on behalf of the Crown

Mr. T. Boyd: Counsel on behalf of the Accused

Ms. A. Vogt:

Charges under ss. 156 C.C. and 246.1 C.C.

Ban on Publication of Complainant/Witness pursuant to Section 486.4 of the Criminal Code

1	R. v. N.A.
2	September 18, 2014 - Inuvik
3	Reasons for Sentence by Justice M. T. Moreau
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6	THE COURT: N.A. was convicted by
7	a jury of his peers of indecent assault and
8	sexual assault in relation to sexual acts
9	perpetrated by him on his biological son between
10	September 1980 and December 1985, at or near
11	Ulukhaktok. I make the following findings of
12	fact in relation to the sentencing of Mr.
13	A:
14	Based on the jury's guilty verdicts in
15	relation to Counts 1 and 2 on the Indictment, I
16	find that the sexual activity started when the
17	complainant was a preschooler, he having
18	testified that the sexual acts started about age
19	three or four, or somewhere around there, and
20	that the first couple of acts of anal intercourse
21	occurred before he was in school. The
22	complainant was living in what he described as
23	the "matchbox house" in Ulukhaktok with his five
24	siblings, the accused, who was his biological
25	parent, and his mother.
26	The accused would force the complainant to
27	drink a bad tasting sour fruit brew that I find

was an alcohol home-brew that caused him to fall asleep. When he woke up he would be in his parents' bedroom, lying on his back, with his clothes off, the accused on top of him holding his knees to his shoulders and performing anal intercourse upon him. The acts of anal intercourse occurred on several occasions while the family resided in the matchbox house.

On the complainant's 5th birthday he again was given the sour fruit brew and awoke in the middle of the night with the accused performing anal intercourse on him, while his mother was sleeping on the floor of the bedroom, which he stated was where she preferred to sleep. The accused gave him a \$50 bill and told him not to tell anyone after that incident.

The assaults caused him considerable pain and he would attempt to ease the pain by sitting on his bare bum in the snow gathered on the porch, or in a basin of water when the anal intercourse occurred in the summer. He stated that he bled from his rear end onto the snow.

I find that the acts of anal intercourse continued when the family moved to what he described as the "new red house" in the same community. On one occasion, he recalled the accused telling him to pull his penis to make it

hard when he was about six years of age and had started kindergarten, and threatened him with his fist in the air. I also find that the anal intercourse occurred on two occasions when the accused and the complainant were out hunting alone.

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An issue arose as to how long the acts lasted, the complainant stating that he recalled they continued for several years and until he was eight or nine. However, as defence counsel pointed out and was very evident from the testimony of the complainant, his recollection of details in his testimony was not precise. He believed there were three bedrooms in the matchbox house but said he was not too sure. He could not remember if his sister had her own room. He couldn't recall whether his mother used a wringer washer in the matchbox house. He could not remember how many times the sexual acts occurred, simply stating they occurred "a lot". He was only able to describe the circumstances surrounding less than a handful of specific occasions and commented in reply to several questions posed in cross-examination about details of his life that he could not remember. Those parts of his life were "turned off like a light switch". When he was asked how long the

assaults went on for, he said "maybe seven

years". He could not recall why or when or how

the assaults stopped.

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Some weaknesses in his recollection of details were illustrated when his statement to Constable Webb of July 2010, about four years ago, was put to him in cross-examination at trial indicating a different recollection than at trial of a detail relating to his 5th birthday party.

The assaults ended abruptly during the period of time the family was living in the new red house.

When asked if he went caribou hunting at about age ten, he stated he did not remember that part of his life.

He could not recall where he was living when he went to police in September of 2010.

As the Crown has sought to adduce a conviction for sexual assault in December 1985 in relation to an offence date of January 1985, when the complainant in this case would have been seven years and about three months old, as an aggravating factor, that aggravating factor must be proved under the Gardiner principle beyond a reasonable doubt. While I find that the offences carried on for several years, I am not able to find, based on the memory issues, evidence in the

complainant's testimony that this aggravating feature has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt. As I reminded the jury in my final instructions, it is not expected that adults remembering childhood events would remember them as an adult remembering adult events. Bearing this principle in mind, and having regard to the memory difficulties of the complainant as I have illustrated, I will treat the accused as a first offender in dealing with the offences in relation to which the jury found him guilty.

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The complainant is now 37 years of age. He first went to police in July 2010, approximately 24, 25 years after, or perhaps more, after the last act of intercourse. After the accused was charged with these offences, the complainant went to live with him for a period of several months and was living with him as recently as last spring.

I do not find that the aggravating feature that the accused pulled the complainant's arm bone out of its socket during the period of the indecent or sexual assaults to have been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, nor was proof of this further offence necessary to the jury's verdicts or intertwined in the actual acts of anal intercourse.

I have some concerns about the manner in which this particular recollection was first raised, namely in cross-examination, prompted by a direct defence question as to the incident, after the complainant was asked about injuries and did not refer to that incident. Secondly, I also have a reasonable doubt as to whether the injuries it caused may not have been intended.

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The acts of anal intercourse here constitute a major sexual assault as defined in R. v. Arcand, 2010 ABCA 363, at paragraph 171.

Justice Charbonneau in R. v. Holman, 2014 NWTJ 5, noted at paragraph 33 that courts in the Northwest Territories have for many years followed the principle outlined in the Alberta Court of Appeal decision in R. v. S. (W.B.), [1992] A.J. No. 601, which sets the starting point for a single act of a major sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust at four years' imprisonment. As noted in S.(W.B.), at paragraph 33, the paramount considerations in sentencing for child sexual assault are denunciation and deterrence. The Court noted that when a person assaults a child for sexual gratification, "...it is reasonable to assume that the child may have suffered emotional trauma, the effects of which may survive longer

than bruises or broken bones and may even be 2 permanent."

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One consequence of sexual abuse noted by the Court is that the child may never to able as an adult to form a loving relationship with another adult, always fearful that such a partner will use sexual acts to hurt him or her rather than as an intimate expression of caring and affection.

Another consequence noted by the Court is that the child, on becoming an adult, may treat a child or children as he or she has been treated as a child.

In summary, the Court observed, after reviewing materials providing empirical information on the consequences of child sexual abuse, that in every case of sexual abuse of a child there is a very real risk of very real harm to the child.

As to the situation where the family is to be restored, the Court cited the comments of Kerans, J.A. in R.P.T., [1983] 7 C.C.C. (3d) 109, at page 114, that denunciatory sentences cannot be saved only for where families are not to be restored. In this case there is evidence that although the complainant and the accused are able to salute each other in public, that is to greet each other, there does not appear to be in this

1	case a situation of restoration of a family
2	relationship between the accused and the
3	complainant at this particular point in time. I
4	do note that the accused has maintained a
5	relationship of some kind with his son J. and
6	has a warm relationship with the grandchildren
7	and great-grandchildren that he referred to in
8	his closing remarks to me.
9	Justice Vertes in R. v. R.K., 2001 NWTSC 31
10	described the particular seriousness of sexual
11	crimes against children:
12	The safekeeping of children is the
13	responsibility of every adult in the community. When that responsibility is broken, especially by someone
14	standing in the position of a parent, then the entire community
15	suffers. This is why in cases such as this, general deterrence and
16	denunciation are the primary
17	considerations and other principles are generally not as significant.
18	This type of case normally demands a significant period of incarceration.
19	Cases involving sexual predators bring out
20	"visceral reactions of revulsion" towards the
21	offender and care must be taken to temper these
22	reactions and ensure that the sentence is not
23	vengeful, as noted by Brown, P.C.J. in R. v.
24	R.B.L., 2005 ABPC 63, at paragraph 42, a case
25	involving incest and parental sexual abuse. She
26	went on, however, to observe at paragraphs 43 and
27	44:

Parental sexual abuse of children is an especially heinous betrayal of trust. A family ought to be a loving, nurturing environment that fosters the growth of happy, healthy, productive members of tomorrow's world. As with all criminal offences, parental sexual abuse not only damages individuals but also profoundly damages society. The extent of the damage to society is measured, in part, by looking at

The extent of the damage to society is measured, in part, by looking at the harm inflicted on individual victims. Both Victim Impact Statements and victim statements in support of an offender give great assistance in assessing the damage to society but, at the end of the day, a criminal sentence addresses the harm to society and leaves the question of personal remedies to the civil system.

Turning to the aggravating factors in this case. Section 718.2(a) (ii.1) and (ii.2) of the Criminal Code expressly provide that abuse of children under 18 by a person who stands in a position of trust is an aggravating factor. In addition, section 718.01 requires that sentences imposed for crimes against persons under 18 give primary consideration to denunciation and deterrence. This same principle, that primary consideration be given to denunciation and deterrence, is repeated in section 718.02 in cases of sexual assault. Section 718.2(a) (iii.1) states that the court shall also consider

impact on the victim, considering their age and
other personal circumstances, including their
health and financial situation." We have only a
limited amount of information in that regard
arising from the complainant's testimony at trial
as he chose not to complete a victim impact
statement, nor were any others presented to me by
family members.

In addition, I find there to be the following particular aggravating factors in this case:

The sexual assault started when the complainant was at a very tender and vulnerable age.

The assaults were numerous and were committed over a period of several years.

The nature of the sexual assaults were of the most serious and also involved at least one incident of the complainant being told to pull the accused's penis. As noted in R. v. F.N.T., 2001 ABPC 121, at paragraph 25, anal sex on a young child is "inherently violent and forceful".

The accused, a parent, abused his own child for his carnal pleasure, which could be described as the ultimate act of parental betrayal.

The fact that pain and suffering were associated, and I mean physical pain and

suffering were associated with the repeated sexual acts and on one occasion the complainant was threatened is also aggravating.

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A form of intoxicant was repeatedly used to subdue and gain control of the complainant, and in administering the intoxicant I am satisfied that there was planning and deliberation associated with the offences.

The crimes were opportunistic when, at least at the initial stages and when the two were hunting together, the accused was entrusted with the care of the child, and on one occasion money was used to persuade the complainant not to tell anyone.

The psychological impact of a serious nature can be inferred. There is evidence here of physical injury in the form of bleeding from the anal area associated with the offences.

While the complainant declined to complete a victim impact statement, he indicated in his testimony that he battled with suicidal thoughts arising from these events. He has a criminal history that speaks to an unbalanced life following the destabilizing impact the Court can infer these events had upon him. The complainant was emotional in describing events occurring over 25 years ago in his account to the jury.

In summary, Mr. A seriously violated
the sexual integrity of his own child, choosing
his youngest and most vulnerable child as a
target of his assaults, who was entitled to rely
upon his father for his protection, safety,
security and nurturing and instead whose
vulnerabilities as a young child were seriously
and repeatedly exploited.

I find there to be no mitigating factors in relation to the circumstances of the offences.

In relation to the circumstances of the accused, section 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code directs that "all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders." While not mitigating, I am of the view that the circumstances of this particular aboriginal offender, which I will describe in a few moments, must be considered in assessing an appropriate sentence in this case.

Crown counsel seeks a global period of incarceration of seven years. Referring to the statutory aggravating and other aggravating features of this case, she submits that even if the Court considered this to be a first set of

offences the sentence should remain within the range of seven years, that is one of seven years, as the offences are so serious and perpetrated on such a young child that deterrence and denunciation must be reinforced.

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She also noted that the accused has not led an exemplary life since the offences, given his criminal record, that would create any exceptional circumstances here that existed in a decision that was handed to me by defence counsel, R. v. Tedjuk for example.

Defence counsel seeks a global period of incarceration of three to four years. He submits that the Gladue factors are such as to reduce the sentence from his acknowledged four year starting point, and considering the personal circumstances and age of the accused and the fact that there have been no instances of any breach of the peace since the record ended in 2001 and there were no instances of any breaches of the peace since he received his summons in 2012 in relation to these charges.

Turning to the principles and purposes of sentencing. Section 718 states:

The fundamental purpose of sentencing is to contribute, along with crime prevention initiatives, to respect for the law and the maintenance of a just, peaceful and safe society by imposing just

	1	sanctions that have one or more of
	2	<pre>the following objectives: (a) to denunciate unlawful conduct;</pre>
	2	(b) to deter the offender and other
	3	<pre>persons from committing offences; (c) to separate offenders from</pre>
	4	society, where necessary;
	_	(d) to assist in rehabilitating
	5	offenders; (e) to provide reparations for harm
	6	done to victims or to the community;
	7	and (f) to promote a sense of
	,	responsibility in offenders, and
	8	acknowledgement of the harm done to
	9	victims and to the community.
1	.0	Section 718.1 requires that "a sentence must
1	.1	be proportionate to the gravity of the offence
1	.2	and the degree of responsibility of the
1	.3	offender."
1	. 4	I have also considered the provisions of
1	.5	718.01, .02, and 718.2(a)(ii.1), (ii.2), and
1	. 6	(iii.1) to the limited extend it might apply,
1	.7	that is in respect of (iii.1).
1	. 8	I have also considered the provisions of
1	. 9	section 718.2(b), (c), and (d).
2	20	I have also considered pursuant to section
2	21	718.2(e) the Gladue factors referred to by
2	22	defence counsel. He explained that as the
2	23	accused's early years were spent at Read Island,
2	2.4	there is nothing by way of written record to
2	25	assist the Court in assessing the systemic and
2	2.6	individual factors in his aboriginal background
2	27	and raising with the exception of a 1985

1	presentence report. I accept defence counsel's
2	request to present himself, and with the
3	assistance of the 1985 PSR, the Gladue features
4	in this case bearing in mind that in R. v. Wells,
5	2000 S.C.C. 10, the Supreme Court clarified the
6	scope of the sentencing judge's duty following
7	Gladue, at paragraph 55.
8	
9	<pre>it was never the Court's intention, in setting out the</pre>
10	appropriate methodology for this assessment, to transform the role of
11	the sentencing judge into that of a board of inquiry. It must be
12	remembered that in the reasons in Gladue, this affirmative obligation
13	to make inquiries beyond the information contained in the
14	<pre>pre-sentence report was limited to "appropriate circumstances", and</pre>
15	where such inquiries were "practicable" (para. 84). The
16	application of section 718.2(e) requires a practical inquiry, not an
17	impractical one. As with any other factual finding made by a court of
	first instance, the sentencing
18	<pre>judge's assessment of whether further inquiries are either</pre>
19	appropriate or practicable is accorded deference at the appellate
20	level.
21	
22	Accordingly, while I find that the Court
23	must find a form of Gladue report before it to
24	fulfil its obligations under 718.2(e), that
25	report can take a number of forms, as dictated by
26	the circumstances.
27	Defence counsel was able to advise the

Court, assisted by the 1985 presentence report that shed light on the accused's earlier years, that the accused's earliest memories were of his birthplace on March 28, 1947, at Read Lake, on the south coast of Victoria Island, an isolated outpost camp of some eight families. Inuinnaqtun was his first language. His parents essentially abandoned him when they left for Cambridge Bay early in his life. He was adopted by an elderly couple who did not bring affection into his upbringing, the 1985 PSR noting that there was a long period of time when he felt deserted, with no one to turn to for immediate guidance when he was growing up, and that this may have been a causal factor in his drinking and later familial issues. His adoptive father died at Read Island.

When he was 13, his mother and sibling moved in to Ulukhaktok, and at age 16 he started working at Hudson's Bay. At age 17 he married, a very early age, prompted by a need for affection and stability, and his former wife confirmed that he started abusing alcohol at that time. He was able to make positive contributions sustaining his family with income from the Hudson's Bay, and assisting himself and the community, spending 30 years in the Canadian Rangers. However, his alcoholism impacted on his family, and his wife

advises she had to bear the brunt alone of raising the children. The children, she advised counsel, seemed to respect their mother and built self-esteem on her example. The accused was able to maintain employment, taking training as a heavy equipment operator and airport maintainer and worked in those fields in his home community. While able to continue to support his family, his income provided access to a ready supply of alcohol.

He is proficient in living off the land and he had his own dog team on Read Island. He is a very proficient hunter and continued to hunt when he moved to Holman.

When a local clergyman had to travel to
Sachs Harbour, on Banks Island, he took him by
dog team, which counsel noted was a several day
trip. He is functionally able to live off the
land alone, preserving the traditions of his
culture. He was high functioning in traditional
and, as noted by the types of employment he
engaged in, also functioning in a contemporary
culture.

Largely because of his alcohol abuse however, he and his wife $\mathbb{W}.$ were divorced.

Counsel noted that he had contributed to his community, working in organizing a scout troop

which kept going for about five years, until the person he organized it with moved out of the community.

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He served on a housing board and is an accomplished fiddler and continues to perform for community events.

He took treatment at Poundmaker's Lodge for alcoholism and on his own initiative took some treatment in a Yellowknife facility. He was dry, his counsel reported, for 16 years and has had, however, some use of alcohol in recent days coming in from Holman for trial but his counsel advises not to an abusive level, and I record the fact that he was in court on time for each and every day of the sitting.

In terms of his current state of health, he had heart surgery a number of years ago, has a pacemaker, receives a pension, enjoys time with his grandchildren, and his counsel attest to the fact that he has a positive relationship with his family members — there are two generations after him — as witnessed by their visits to his hotel room whilst in Inuvik for the trial.

His counsel also reported that he has a vertigo disorder.

In Gladue, at paragraph 55, the Supreme Court instructed:

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2	Generally, the more violent and serious the offence the more likely
3	as a practical reality the term of imprisonment for aboriginals and non-aboriginals will be close to
4	each other or the same, even taking into account their different
5	concepts of sentencing.
6	As with all sentencing decisions, the sentencing of aboriginal
7	offenders must proceed on an individual (or a case-by-case)
8	basis. For this offence, committed by this offender, harming this
9	victim, in this community, what is the appropriate sanction under the
10	Criminal Code?
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12	In addressing the passage of time since the
13	offences were committed, reference was made in R.
14	v. McGee, 2006 NWTJ 87, to the decision of the
15	Alberta Court of Appeal in R. v. Spence (1992),
16	78 C.C.C. (3d) 451, where the court stated:
17	The lapse of time does not in any
18	way render inapplicable the principles of general deterrence and
19	denunciation.
20	
21	The court reasoned as follows at paragraphs
22	54 and 55:
23	The passage of time, even a long
24	time, between the offences and the sentencing is not mitigating. We
25	know that many child victims, and sometimes even adult victims, are
26	unable to disclose these types of things until much time has passed.
27	Giving any kind of credit or mitigating effect to the passage of

time would give an offender credit
for delays in reporting that
happened for very understandable
reasons and are the consequence of
the trauma caused by the actions of
the offender. That would not be
fair.

It could also have a more sinister and perverse effect of inciting those who commit these types of crimes to be more tempted to threaten their victims or otherwise make sure that they are dissuaded from talking about what happened to them.

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While the Court cannot consider the criminal record postdating the offence as an aggravating feature in this case, the accused cannot have the benefit of some lenience related to leading an exemplary life post offence.

Having considered the statutory and other aggravating factors I have identified, the lack of mitigating factors, the principles and purpose of sentencing as set out in the Criminal Code sections I have referred to, the personal circumstances of Mr. A, the historical nature of the assaults, and the case authorities provided by counsel, including W.B.S. and the sentencing decisions referred to within that decision, I conclude that the range of sentence in this case does not include a term of incarceration of less than two years. The starting point for offences of the kind committed

by Mr. A is four years for a single act,
and there are no mitigating factors that would
reduce the appropriate sentence to something in
the range of what is permitted for instance for a
conditional sentence.

after trial of repeated acts of anal intercourse on his young stepson and stepdaughter.

Aggravating was the fact that the acts were committed while both victims were in the same room. The respondent had no record. And of course a further aggravating factor was that there were multiple victims. A global sentence of seven years was imposed on appeal.

In W.B.S., the respondent was convicted

I have also reviewed the sentences imposed in the great number of cases reviewed in the W.B.S. decision.

In F.N.T. which involved guilty pleas in relation to acts of anal intercourse and other sexual acts on two young sons of the accused, one from his first family and one from his second family, when the acts did not stop until the accused was confronted by the child's mother, a global sentence of seven years was imposed.

Defence counsel referred to Holman, the offences there dating back 40 years. The victim was 11. Sexual intercourse was involved. Ten

years later, the accused attempted to have sexual intercourse with another girl. He was sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment, however, as noted by Crown counsel in her submissions, he came forward and confessed, pled guilty, confessed to two other sexual assaults and had since the assaults led an exemplary life.

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Here there was no mitigating guilty plea.

In Minoza, submitted by the defence, children were not involved.

Tedjuk, submitted by the defence, was based on a joint submission involving only one incident of sexual assault in which two years less a day was the sentence.

I agree with Crown counsel's submission that Minoza and Tedjuk are distinguishable on their facts.

Having regard to the principles of sentencing and the primacy of deterrence, both personal and general, and denunciation in serious crimes of this nature that prey on the most vulnerable members of our community; the aggravating factors in this case; the lack of mitigating factors in relation to the offences before me; the accused's aboriginal heritage and the systemic challenges he faced in childhood without the guidance and love of his parents; an

1	early marriage; and alcoholism, which I am
2	satisfied, as supported by the 1995 PSR, was
3	prompted at least in part by an unstable
4	childhood; and having regard to the totality
5	principle of sentencing in this case for what is
6	essentially the same offence that continued
7	through a period of time when the Criminal Code
8	was amended to provide for the offence of sexual
9	assault and abolish indecent assault.
10	I would ask that you stand, please, Mr.
11	A.
12	Mr. A, I find that a fit and proper
13	global sentence for you and for these offences is
14	one of five and a half years' imprisonment.
15	As to Count 1 then, the sentence is five and
16	a half years' imprisonment. And as to Count 2,
17	the sentence is five and a half years'
18	imprisonment, both to be served concurrently.
19	You may be seated, sir.
20	I direct that the warrant of committal be
21	endorsed with my strong recommendation that the
22	accused be permitted to serve his sentence in a
23	northern correctional facility.
24	In addition, I impose the following
25	ancillary orders:
26	Mr. A is required to forthwith, as
27	soon as the required tools can be made available,

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            provide a sample of bodily fluids for DNA
           analysis, pursuant to section 487.051 of the
 3
           Criminal Code.
                 He shall register and maintain compliance
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            with the Sex Offender Information Registration
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           Act.
                 I am going to check the period. Is it for
            life?
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       MS. MILLER:
                               Your Honour, Crown requested
            for life as there was multiple offences. If I
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            could just have a moment, I have the section
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           marked here.
        THE COURT:
                               While you check that.
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                 Pursuant to section 109(1) of the Criminal
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            Code, Mr. A is prohibited from possessing
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            any weapon as described in section 109(1) for a
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           period of ten years following his release from
            imprisonment and from possessing a prohibited
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            weapon and prohibited ammunition for life.
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        MS. MILLER:
                               Your Honour, it's section
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            490.013. In the Crown's view, (2.1) applies as
            it's for more than one offence referred to in
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            paragraph (a), (c), (c.1), (d), or (e). So this
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           is technically he's being sentenced for two
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            offences, so in the Crown's view (2.1) applies
            and the order should be made for life.
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Any submissions, Mr. Boyd? Do

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THE COURT:

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            you want to have a chance to look at that?
       MR. BOYD:
                               No submissions, Your Honour.
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            I'm also keeping the offender's age, now 67, in
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            mind, so whether it's 20 years or life I'm not
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            sure it's a significant difference.
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        THE COURT:
                               In order to invoke a lifetime
            direction it is the case that (2.1) would have to
            be at play because the 20 year prohibition deals
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            with where the maximum term of imprisonment is 10
            or 14 years. So in view of the Crown's
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            submission that multiple offences are involved
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            here, the direction will be for a period of life.
                 My understanding from counsel is that the
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            charges were laid prior to the amendments to the
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            Criminal Code, and I just want to go back to
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            that. Are we ad idem on that with respect to
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            victim fine surcharge?
                               Yes, Your Honour.
        MS. MILLER:
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        THE COURT:
                               All right. In light of the
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            fact that an incarceratory sentence has been
21
            imposed, the victim fine surcharge is waived in
            relation to both counts.
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                 I do wish to thank counsel for their helpful
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            submissions throughout the trial and throughout
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            the sentencing.
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That concludes the proceeding today. Thank

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you very much.

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3	Certified correct to the best of my skill and ability.
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6	Annette Wright Court Reporter
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