

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: JEANNETTE GAGNON

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: New Hampshire Attorney General's Office  
Concord, NH

INTERVIEWED BY: <sup>ML</sup> Brooke Lemoine, Detective  
<sup>5/11/03</sup> Brenda M. Blonigen, Sergeant

DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 24, 2002

RE: GORDON JAMES MACRAE

BL: This is an audio taped statement taking place at the Attorney General's Office in Concord. The date is the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2002. The time is 10:22 a.m. This is Detective Brooke Lemoine. Also in the interview conference room is Sgt. Brenda Blonigen and we're conducting the interview, statement of Jeanette Gagnon. Jeanette, could you spell your last name for me please.

JG: GAGNON.

BL: And could you please tell me where you live please, ma'am?

JG: I currently live in [REDACTED], New Hampshire.

BL: Okay. Could you give me your address?

JG: [REDACTED]

BL: And could I have your date of birth, please, ma'am?

JG: [REDACTED]

BL: Okay. I know we've been speaking with you for several minutes and we are, we received some information from you and we also told you that we are conducting an investigation relative to the Diocese of Manchester. Is that correct?

JG: Yes it's correct.

BL: And ah we've been sharing some information ah specifically ah with you regarding ah a case involving a Gordon Macrae, correct?

JG: Correct.

BL: Whose Gordon Macrae to you?

JG: Gordon Macrae was um a priest of the Catholic church. He was assigned to the church, St. Bernard's, in Keene, New Hampshire.

BL: Okay. And ah just I want you to, to go back to either the early 1980's. What was your position in ah the early '80's? Where were you employed?

JG: I was employed in the Division of Welfare. I was the Administrator of the Office of Child and Family Services.

BL: Okay. When did you first start with the Division of Welfare?

JG: I started with the Division of Welfare in July, 1964.

BL: Okay. And I understand that you are now retired from the Division of Welfare?

JG: I'm retired from. I retired from the Division of Elderly & Adult Services. After the children services we were separated from the um the Adult Services were separated from the children services. I became the Administrator in the Elderly Service Division.

BL: Okay. And I think you explained that you retired in 1999.

JG: I did.

BL: Okay. And ah when you were speaking about your career with the Division of Welfare, that became DCYF correct?

JG: That's correct.

BL: Um, you were a social worker, a supervisor and ah finally Chief Administrator?

JG: Chief, Chief Administrator, yes.

BL: Okay. And where were you primarily headquartered ah Jeanette?

JG: Well in the earlier days when I began my work I was headquartered in Manchester and then when I became ah Chief of the Bureau Child & Family Services I was assigned to ah the Concord State Office.

- BL: Okay. Now, ah turning your attention to um 1983. I believe it's the month of November, um did you receive some information relative to ah Father Gordon Macrae, a priest that you'd mentioned. Did you receive any information?
- JG: I received the information ah that had originally been made known to the ah Welfare Director, Richard Chevifields at that time.
- BL: Okay, Richard Chevifields. Whose he?
- JG: He was the Director of ah the Division of Welfare.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: In '83.
- BL: He would have been your boss?
- JG: My boss.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: He was my boss.
- BL: And who would have been his boss?
- JG: His boss at that time was Sylvia Dupre.
- BL: Okay. She would, she was the Commissioner, okay.
- JG: Commissioner.
- BL: She received some information um from your boss Mr. Cheversfield. What did you receive for information that you can recall back then?
- JG: Ah, there was a report of an alleged, suspected child sexual abuse um on a then teenager. I think he was 15 years old, [REDACTED]
- BL: Okay.
- JG: Who was um, who was living with Reverend Gordon Macrae in Hampton, New Hampshire
- BL: Yeah.

JG: And had been transferred, Gordon Macrae had been transferred to Keene, New Hampshire.

BL: Okay. So you received some information that a 15 year old boy by the name of [REDACTED] had been sexually abused by Father Gordon Macrae. Okay, and you got this information from Mr. Cheversfield?

JG: Correct.

BL: And what did Mr. Cheversfield tell you that he wanted you to do?

JG: He wanted me to um review this matter and to conduct a, an investigation to see um what were the facts and make a determination.

BL: Okay. Ah, did Mr. Cheversfield do you recall tell you that he received the information from a source initially? Did he tell you that he received the information from somebody before passing it on to you?

JG: Yes.

BL: Who did he say he received the information from?

JG: He, he received the information from Father John Quinn.

BL: Okay.

JG: Who was an Administrator of Catholic Social Services in Manchester.

BL: Is this a name that you recognize, Father Quinn?

JG: I do.

BL: Okay.

JG: I do recognize that name.

BL: Okay. And we'll get more into Father Quinn as we, as we go along. Um, so your first step after receiving the information regarding [REDACTED] ah being the victim of abuse. Do you recall what, what was the next thing that you did ah after receiving the information? Did you make any contact with anyone? Did you ah make an appointment to see anyone?

JG: My recollection is that I met with Father Quinn.

BL: Okay. Um, were you, did you meet Father Quinn alone or?

JG: No, I was at the meeting I recall in Manchester I was, when I got there the Commissioner was present.

BL: Okay.

JG: Commissioner, Dupre was also there at this particular meeting.

BL: Okay. So you, you met with Monsignor Quinn along with your boss, your bosses boss at the Commissioner of Welfare, ah yourself and, and ah Monsignor Quinn. Was there anybody else there that you can recall?

JG: There might have been other people there. I, I um don't really recollect at that point if Father Christian was there, but

BL: Okay.

JG: I don't know for sure.

BL: Was Gordon Macrae there?

JG: Ah, no.

BL: Okay. Had you spoken at all with [REDACTED] up to that point?

JG: No I had not.

BL: Okay. And when do you recall this meeting taking place from the time you received the initial report to the time this meeting took place? Was it close? I mean I'm not asking you to put a date stamp on it, but your best recollection.

JG: I think it was close. \_\_\_\_\_

BL: Closer to the time of the report?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay. Ah, let me ask you this. Is it unusual that the ah Chief Administrator or the Director or the Commissioner of Welfare and yourself at that time being an administrator would handle this particular abuse complaint?

JG: It was unusual. Ah, most of the reports, all of the other reports would be assigned to social workers within each district office.

BL: Yep.

- JG: At times the supervisors in the district office would be assigning the investigation, but this was an unusual situation.
- BL: Distracted from the norm?
- JG: It did distract from the norm and I, my understanding of it and I accepted it is was because we were dealing with someone and the alleged perpetrator who was a Catholic priest.
- BL: Okay. Um, I think you had mentioned earlier that ah, ah Mr. Dupre had somewhat of a closer relationship with Catholic Charities and ah was very familiar with their operation and so forth. Can you maybe give me some insight as to what you believe to be the relationship that Mr. Dupre has with the Catholic Charities?
- JG: Well I think that um, Dr Dupre and the Commissioner was very involved in, in ah manners of the Catholic church. Um, and that his relationship ah with people within the system, with the Bishop and with the administrative staff of Catholic Charities was close. They had worked together on a number of ah programs directed by the Catholic church.
- BL: Do you recall if Mr. Dupre told you anything relative to how this investigation was going to be conducted?
- JG: Um, no he didn't tell me, but I told him that ah that I was very committed to the law and rules that we operated in and that this report and any report would be conducted as every other one.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: Ah, and that there was to be no special considerations because that was important had to be done as it would with any other ah report.
- BL: Okay. Did um Commissioner Dupre ask for any special considerations or did anyone that you had contact with at the Diocese have, ask you or insinuate that some special consideration would be made to them on this matter?
- JG: No, I don't think anyone was direct, but you know I just felt that they ah expected that ah, that um they would be um granted some consideration because it was important that they be um seen being as cooperating with this investigation, wanting to get to the bottom of this and that it involved a Catholic priest and they were not really looking for, for any publicity and they would have wanted this to be something um that they would be involved in and that they could handle it and it would be quiet.

- BL: Okay. That information that you said about it being quiet and having the appearance of, of doing a proper conducted investigation, getting to the bottom of it, was that something that was communicated to you by ah Father Quinn?
- JG: Yeah, I remember Father Quinn mentioning that um you know very specifically that I would understand that this was a very serious matter and that it could um, perhaps people wouldn't understand.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: Um, but again I think, I recall having a conversation back and forth with him, but he had to understand that we were very committed to the law and to the rules that we had relative to any investigations.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: And that again the focus was on the alleged victim and ah so you know he would, we would expect your cooperation.
- BL: Okay. I just want to get a flavor of this conversation. I think you had mentioned earlier when we were discussing the meeting with Quinn and Dupre over this that you felt that you had to get ah very forward kirt almost with them, um with Father Quinn regarding this allegation, abuse. Maybe you can give me a little bit more information as to how you felt, that you had to be very forward them about ah the allegations here and how they were going to be handled.
- JG: Well not that it was something that was explicit that they came right out and told me what they wanted some very special consideration as they moved through the investigation because, because of the status of those people involved. Ah, and that this could be um a um difficult time if this became known that they had these, this priest was um allegedly molesting children and that over time and if and ah if they had known and had first not made a report according to the law or they hadn't done anything about it it would be difficult for them and embarrassing.
- BL: Okay.
- JG: But I must say that they seems to me as I recall they understood that there was a law and there was a process and the had to cooperate and that the focus was again on the child who was then originally molested and after some discussion there seemed to be some understanding about it.
- BL: Okay. Um, did ah Father Quinn tell you anything about ah what the Diocese was going to be doing with ah Father Macrae now that these allegations have come to life?

JG: If I recall there's some degree that they had made, they made statements that they would, would um would be getting the appropriate counseling and for Father Macrae and um that they were confident that um they could, that he would understand that, that that was not to be tolerated.

BL: Okay.

JG: To remain a priest.

BL: But I know that ah when you're telling me this information I can see you looking down at ah a report that we showed you that um, that you authored and signed dated 27 December 1983, is that correct?

JG: That's correct.

BL: Okay. And this report was authored by you?

JG: It was authored by me.

BL: Okay. And you recall the ah circumstances that ah I know we went through the ah report line by line um and that this particular child abuse ah investigation resulted in a founded abuse ah situation. Is that correct?

JG: That's correct.

BL: Okay. And um ah is it my understanding that in your report you indicated Reverend Macrae has admitted the incident to his superiors. You wrote there on that line, correct?

JG: Yes I did.

BL: Okay. Um, did Monsignor Quinn tell you that Macrae admitted to this incident?

JG: I don't recall that he directly um, um told me that. Um.

BL: Okay.

JG: Look at my notes here, but um it would be, it would be consistent with other um, um Father

BL: Macrae?

JG: No. Quinn.

BL: Quinn.



JG: Assurance that they would, they would ah

BL: Okay.

JG: Would not impede with standing in the way of this investigation.

BL: Ah, did you have the occasion to interview Father Macrae? No?

JG: No.

BL: Okay. Is that something that in a normal investigation ah such as this that the perpetrator would be interviewed by a worker?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay. So by you not interviewing ah Reverend Macrae was that sort of a detraction from the norm?

JG: Yes it would have been a detraction from the norm.

BL: Um, I'm just speculating and maybe you can clear this up. Is it, is it possible that Reverend Macrae was not interviewed by you because you were told that he already admitted to it and that there was no reason to interview him?

JG: That sounds reasonable.

BL: Okay. Um, were you given any information relative to ah Reverend Macrae ah seeking any psychological help or assistance um because of ah this admitted child abuse?

JG: Yes.

BL: Okay. What were you told?

JG: Um, that he had agreed to counseling and he was involved in counseling and that it was successful.

BL: Okay. They told you that he was in counseling and that ah they were confident that the counseling was successful?

JG: Yes.

BL: And I think you admitted, you indicated in your report that ah Reverend Macrae is currently in active regular therapy with a Dr. Henry Geurton Ouellette. They feel