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Interviewee: I guess my I'm thinking way back even before, way before COVID. My first long term care experience was with my grandmother. And I was just a really a little girl and she was kind of grunt, she was making these grunting sounds. And I was probably a bit unsure, like, frightened. And then, my dad wasn't in the room, he must have been maybe talking to the staff or something. And then he came in the room, and I saw my grandmother just like light up.

And I feel like that may be the first time I realized that there's so much more, you know, than meets the eye with people in care.

Then my mom developed young onset dementia. So, she ended up in a care facility here in Winnipeg. It was kind of like a weird, a very weird second home to have. But I also saw the kind of systemic underfunding and neglect and the toll of advocating for her and never really getting anywhere.

And then I guess when COVID happened, it was so hard to see on the news, what was happening to people. But it was also the first time I felt like there were other layers more of like awareness and discourse and concern for people in long term care. So, I was connected to that. And then I was working on a research project and interviewing staff in long term care.

I remember speaking with a nurse, she was retired but worked kind of casually and then got pulled back to work more during COVID. And she described having to work in their kind of makeshift COVID unit when they had a really bad outbreak and they had put all the residents in the chapel, in the long term care facility. And they didn't have hot water or running water and all these residents crammed into the chapel. And you had a mix of residents who were asymptomatic or had very mild illness, and were, you know, walking around and wanting to leave and move and agitated and upset. Like, in the same room as people who were dying.

And when I heard that I thought this is just one care home. It wasn't a care home that was in the news.

And all I could think was like, this should be, you know, recorded, and archived and documented. And so, when I saw this project, I thought, wow, you guys are... that's awesome. Because I feel like yeah, this history should be kept and known. So, it's not just erased.