

Her life has been significantly improved. She was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Two or three years ago we thought she would be in hospital very shortly. Now she's one of our more active and successful volunteers.⁴

Case 4:

Over ten or eleven years ago I met a woman who in her lifetime had been a strong woman and had settled in the Peace River country with her husband during the Depression years. She has stayed on the family farm through the winter and raised the children all by herself off in the bush while her husband went into town and looked for work to subsidize the farm.

When the time came for her and her husband to retire, they moved to Edmonton. When he died, one of her children came to her and said, "Mother, come live with me. I'll help you look after Dad's estate; I'll help you settle Dad's estate and invest Dad's money." So she came to live in West Vancouver with this adult child.

When I saw her she was living alone in an apartment. She was obviously very depressed. She really didn't know how much money she had. She wasn't really seeing much of her adult children or her grandchildren. She came to see me because she wanted to plan her funeral. She wanted to have her body taken back to Edmonton to lie beside her husband.

She felt that unless she had already paid for the funeral, her daughter and her sons won't respect her wishes when she died. She said, "There is one thing they respect, and that's money." Making the arrangements involved getting two quotes, one to fly her body back to Edmonton and the other to put it on the train.

When I put the question to her, for the first time, she turned and looked me directly in the eye, and there was a real glint in her eye. She asked, "Is that the train that goes through Jasper?"

I realized then that the woman I was talking to didn't want to plan her funeral. She wasn't looking forward to her death. She wanted an adventure. She wanted a life and she was quite capable of having a life. So we went to work on what we should have gone to work on originally, which was how she was going to get control of her own money, how she was going to start making her own decisions.⁵

⁴ Leon, 9:6.

⁵ McKenzie, 8:4