

**TRANSCRIPT**  
**CBC's Metro Morning Interviews CCAS former Crown Wards**  
**who are recipients of the Hope for Children Scholarship**  
**August 30, 2007**

Subject:

A program at the Catholic Children's Aid Society, Hope for Children Scholarship program, is helping Crown wards enter university.

CBC:

We were describing this rosy picture a few minutes ago of parents dropping their kids off at university. This is a ritual being repeated thousands of times across the country and across the city. Well the two people who've just taken their seat across from me, well, they had a somewhat different picture as they began university. They've taken a very special path to get there. They were both Crown wards, children whose parents are essentially the state. Kids who grow up in that situation we're told are less likely to enter university than their peers, but a program at the Catholic Children's Aid Society is helping more than make this happen. It's called The Hope for Children Scholarship Program. Lucy Anna ANACLETO (sp) became a ward of the state when she was 14. She's now 22 going into her third year of poli-sci at Concordia in Montreal. Lucy, hello.

LUCY ANACLETO:

Hello.

CBC:

And Lucas Lawrence became a Crown ward when he was eight-years-old. He's now 26, about to start his first year architecture at the University of Toronto. Welcome Lucas.

LUCAS LAWRENCE:

Good morning, thanks for having us.

CBC:

You've met so many people who are brought up as Crown wards, give us some idea why so many of them don't go to university?

LAWRENCE:

Well I think the main obstacle is just people who become...children who become Crown wards have so much to overcome just in life in general, that the idea of going to university is such an overwhelming notion that people just dealing with all the emotional baggage that comes with the, kind of, the abuse and situations that lead to becoming a Crown ward, just don't quite make it that far.

CBC:

Lucy is nodding as you say these things. Unpack that baggage for us, Lucy. Just tell us a little bit about your own situation, just attitudinally.

ANACLETO:

Sure. I think that it's a much greater and more weighty decision to decide to go to university if you know that you have no fall back plan. In terms of, you know, the state is supposed to be our parents, right? So we've got one of the richest parents...you know, right...in the world, but at the same time, if you were to fall down on your luck, you can't really go to Parliament Hill and crash on the couch. You know, so I think that that's one of the major differences between the way that we encounter the world and the way we make decisions based on our situations, is that we know that there's no way to get out of a difficult situation if we get into one.

CBC:

We, last year talked to the producer of a documentary you may be aware of about Crown wards, and how when they are basically set free at the age of 21, they are just unmoored. I mean, they don't even have that cold comfort of the state as a parent. You're basically on your own.

LAWRENCE:

Yeah, and I think that's another factor, is that there's no support system in place once you're 18, so if you were to go onto university...(overlap)...there's no emotional support, which is so important when you're taking on something like a university degree.

CBC:

Let's just go back to that picture Donna painted of taking your son off to university this week. What was week number one like, as you got to Concordia, you're far from home, all the station wagons and minivans are being unpacked and the kids are kissing their parents good-bye, what was that like for you?

ANACLETO:

I think I was so nervous I almost, yeah, I almost, you know, puked twice...or something, before going into the mezzanine. And I didn't actually know anybody in Montreal, and it was sort of like, okay, here I am. I've got this apartment, I don't know my roommates, but I was lucky enough to find it, like, an affordable apartment. I'm going to enter into these classes and I know that if I have a rough day, I'm going to come home and I'm going to have to make a long distance call which I can't afford to my sisters, which thankfully have been very supportive. But you know, if I were to run into any...I know in the back of my mind that if anything were to happen I can't really rely on my sisters to financially bail me out. I'm going to have to rely on myself.

CBC:

And Lucas, when everybody's inviting one another home for the holidays, do you tell your story to people, do you share what it was you come from or what you don't come from?

LAWRENCE:

Not so much, you know, I think it's kind of depressing, but it's...yeah, it's hard when you see the kids on the first day of school with their parents and so supportive, and when you're doing well and you get an 86 on an essay and there's no one to call. You know, it's a tough haul, but that's the great thing about the foundation is that it really kind of offers some support when there is none.

CBC:

You know, Lucy, listening to you two, you know the old saying, that that doesn't kill you makes you strong. I don't want to suggest that you would have ever selected for yourself what you've been through, but it must make you uncommonly self-reliant and dependent or am I just dreaming in techni-colour here?

ANACLETO:

No, I think it has. I think I've learned a lot from this experience and I think that it has made me a lot stronger, but the thing is that when you're in this situation, I know that, you know, me and my friend here are not...we're not common examples. A large majority of the people that end up homeless have been Crown wards.

CBC:

So I shouldn't allow myself to imagine that because you two are doing so well that this is a happy ending for Crown wards.

ANACLETO:

No, one of the agencies I was with I ended up working for afterwards, and of the 500 kids who have gone through the program in the last 10 years, I'm the only one who's gone onto university. So, some have managed to go onto to community college, which is fantastic, it just seems like such an overwhelming obstacle that not very many kids can make it through.

CBC:

Credit where credit's due. Lucy just tell us a little bit about the Hope for Children Scholarship.

ANACLETO:

The Hope for Children Scholarship has been handing out more awards as years go by. They do hand out more awards each year, which is wonderful which means that more kids are going to school, and they

have been...they award depending on your financial situation, they try to give as much as they can. It's actually...the way it's set up, even people that work at the CCAS give out of their own pockets and they donate, which is really, really beautiful.

CBC:

That's very touching. Good luck in your third year, Lucy. Lucas, good luck in your first year.

LAWRENCE:

Thank you very much.

CBC:

And thanks so much for sharing a little bit...this could be 300 pages and 45 minutes...good talking to you. Lucy Anna ANACLETO is a student at Concordia in Montreal. Lucas Lawrence is at the University of Toronto just about to start school. If you're a frosh there, say hello, as he walks by. Both are Hope for Children Foundation Scholarship recipients. That's a program from the Catholic CAS of Toronto.

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