Table 2.2

*Open-Ended Questions*

I would like to begin by asking you to reflect back on your childhood. Probes: What stands out? What were the highlights? Who do you remember most from your childhood?

What has school been like for you? Probes: Do you have subjects you like? What subjects are you good at? Reflect on your relationship with your teachers over the years. Talk about your favorite teacher and what stood out about him/her.

Let’s talk a little about some of the jobs that you have done for pay so far in your life. Probes: What has it been like working for others? What does it feel like to earn your own money? What kind of jobs would you like to do in your adult life?

Tell me a little bit about your present living situation. Probes: Are your basic needs being met? Does it give you enough privacy? Do you feel safe and secure where you live at the moment? How could things be better for you?

Talk a bit about the people in your life who you like the most. Probes: Why do they stand out for you? Can you confide in them? Do they make you feel good about who you are? Are they there for you when you feel down? Do you miss them when they are not around?

I would like to know a little about local services that you use. Probes: What services stand out for you? Were you able to bond with a particular worker? What characteristics, in your view, are important for those working with you? Are there gaps in the services provided? If so, what services would you like to see become available?

What do you expect to be doing in the next few weeks? What are your plans between now and then?

I would like to find out a little about your daily diet. Probes: What did you have for breakfast yesterday? Where did you eat breakfast yesterday? What did you have for lunch yesterday? What did you have for dinner yesterday? Where did you eat dinner yesterday?

What are your main health concerns right now? Probes: Do you suffer from any physical problems? Are you emotionally okay? What happens when you get sick? Who takes care of you then?

Have you been to see a doctor recently? If so, what was it like? Probes: How would you describe your relationship with doctors in general? Have they treated you with respect? Is there any other health provider that you see? If so, what is he/she like? How is he/she different from other doctors you have met?

Have you felt your safety to be at risk lately? If so, why was this the case? What did you do when faced with the situation?

Tell me a little about the place where you are staying now. Probes: What is the best thing about it? What are the downsides, if any? Do you feel safe in the place where you are staying? If not, what do you fear about it? Do you have any fears about the surrounding neighborhood?

How have you been doing since our last interview? Probes: In the last two months, has anything important happened to you? Have the last two months been uneventful? Have you found yourself in a corner? Have you been in needs of help from others? If so, how did you cope?

I would next like to learn if you have gone to school since I saw you last. If you have attended school, what has it been like for you? What were some of the positive points? What were some of the challenges? Did you have subjects that you liked? What subjects are you good at?

If you have not attended school have you ever thought about going back to school? Do you think there is any point in going to school? Is there anything that would have to change for you to go to school?

I would like to learn if you have had a job where you earn a wage since I saw you last?

If you have had a job: What kind of job was it? What has it been like working for others? What skills do you have that were useful for this job? What does it feel like to earn money? Would you like to have this job for a long time? What other kinds of jobs can you see yourself doing in the near future? What kind of jobs would you like to do in your adult life?

If you have not had a job, would you have liked to have a job? Does the idea of working appeal to you? What would be the best thing about having a job? What would be the worst thing about having a job? If you decided to look for work, what would be the hardest part of finding a job? What would be your ideal job?

Tell me about the place where you live. Probes: Are your basic needs being met? Does it give you enough privacy? Do you feel safe and secure where you live at the moment? Do you have someone to confide in and support you? How could things be better for you?

Talk a bit about the people in your life whom you like the most. Probes: Why do they stand out for you? Can you confide in them? Do they make you feel good about who you are? Are they there for you when you feel down? Do you miss them when they are not around?

Would you say that you have been happy over the last two months? Have you been more or less happy since the last time we met? Probes: What has happened in your life that has made you become more or less happy?

Next I would like to talk with you about another topic often mentioned when the subject of youth sexuality comes up. This concerns the topic of what some people call youth “sexual exploitation.” I am wondering how you define this term. Can you please give me an example of what you would consider to be a case of youth sexual exploitation?

Do you think that youth in Victoria are more or less likely to trade sex than youth located elsewhere in Canada? Why or why not? What about your friends? If your friends have talked about exchanging sex for money or in kind services, is that what they have heard about others doing, or what they say they have actually done themselves?

How about you? Have you ever exchanged sex for money, shelter, drugs, alcohol, food, or anything else? If yes, are you comfortable talking to me about it? Was this a one-time occurrence, or did it happen more than once? What were the circumstances around this exchange? Do you plan on exchanging sex in the forseeable future?

Do you know who took care of you when you were a baby? (Have you ever been told who took care of you?)

Do you know who took care of you when you were a toddler?

Did your grandparents ever look after you?

Other relatives, neighbors, family friends?

Do you know if you went to a daycare?

Do you recall feeling left on your own?

Next I would like to ask about middle childhood (grade 1-4).

Who cared for you after school? Where did you go? Who was there?

Did your grandparents ever look after you? Other relatives? Neighbors? Friends?

Do you recall going to formal after school care?

Where did you do your homework?

Who helped you with your homework?

How often did you feel left on your own?

How many different out-of-school activities do you recall participating in? List them.

Did anything prevent you from participating? (time, abilities, money, health).

Next I would like to ask about your youth (graded 5 and higher).

How did your relationship with your parents change over this age span?

How did your relationship with your siblings change over this time period?

How did your relationship with your friends change over this time period?

How many friends did you have?

Did you have enough friends?

Were they boys or girls?

Were your friends younger or older than you?

What were some of the fun things you did with friends?

What was your most important worry, concern, or frustration?

Think back on all the people who have supported you throughout your life. Please tell me who supported you for the longest length of time? How long did they support you for?

What would have made your growing up years better? How would that have changed your life, do you think?