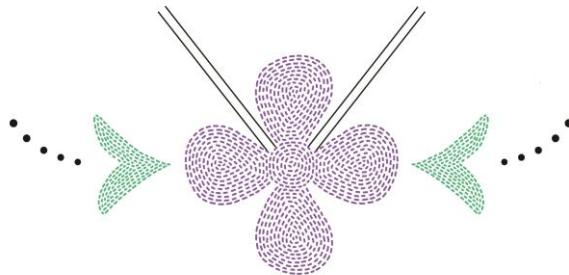


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Membertou First Nation
Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island), Nova Scotia**



PUBLIC

Tuesday October 31, 2017

Statement - Volume 68

**Deveron Paul,
In relation to Victoria Paul**

Statement gathered by Daria Boyarchuk

Coast Reporting Services Inc.

II

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October 31, 2017
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Documents submitted with testimony: none

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NOTE

The use of square brackets [] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Amendments were completed by listening to the source audio recording of the proceeding and were made by Bryana Bouchir, Public Inquiry Clerk with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ, May 10th 2018 at Vancouver, BC.

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

1

1 [31 OCTOBER 2017, 10:43 A.M.]

2 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay. So, Deveron, I would like to
3 begin by asking you a question: What would you like
4 the Commission to know or what would you like to share
5 with us today?

6 DEVERON PAUL: My story, I guess, of what happened to my
7 mother. That's what it's about.

8 DARIA BOYARCHUK: And what can you tell about your mother?

9 DEVERON PAUL: She was a kind, lovable person. She
10 was ... she was fun to be around. Yeah, always
11 smiling, laughing. Easygoing, lovable. She was a
12 lovable woman. Go for walks, go watch sports. Yeah.

13 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you. Could you tell us what
14 happened to your mother.

15 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. We -- we -- took my son to the fair
16 in Truro. We took -- my son went back home with his
17 mother. My mother wanted to -- no, I wanted to go to
18 the bar, so my mother said she'd come along 'cause she
19 wanted to play the machines at the bars. So we went
20 to the bars. And I end up getting kicked out the bar
21 'cause I was too intoxicated.

22 Anyways, the cops took me -- the bouncers kicked
23 me out. I got outside. The cops were out there and
24 they started arresting me. But I wasn't resisting
25 arrest. And I was fighting with the [unintelligible]

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

2

1 or whatever. And then I -- my mom come out and tried
2 to help me out. And they were going to arrest my mom,
3 but I told them, "If you guys just -- I'll give up and
4 stop resisting if you guys just don't touch my
5 mother." So they were like, "Okay." They told me,
6 "Yeah." They nodded their heads, so I was like all
7 right, then. There was, like, five of them. Yeah,
8 about five or six. And I just -- like, I gave up,
9 whatever. And they threw me in the cop car. And then
10 they went after my mother.

11 And after they arrested my mother, they came back
12 in the car. I told them -- I asked them why they went
13 after my mother after they just -- after I just told
14 them that, "I'll give up if you guys just leave my
15 mother alone." And then they just told me, "Oh, you
16 don't know what you're talking about." Blah blah --
17 as if I was that drunk they wasn't going to remember
18 anything.

19 So ... I ended up going to the Truro holding
20 cells. And then they brought my mother after me
21 and ... I remember trying to talk to my mother, but
22 she was, like, four cells down or something. Yeah,
23 she was, like, four cells down, so it was hard to
24 hear. But she was down there, 'cause I -- she could
25 hear me yelling. And ...

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

3

1 I woke up the next morning, and when they were
2 taking me to call the justice of peace I asked them
3 what's going on with my mother. Like, "Are you guys
4 going to let my mother out today?" And they said --
5 they just told me they -- they don't know what's going
6 on with her. So they threw me back in the cell
7 and ... I just went back -- like, laid back down. And
8 then when I woke up -- when they woke me back up to
9 take me out or to transfer me, I asked them what
10 happened to my mother. Like, "Where's my mother?"
11 And they -- they just told me they didn't know what
12 happened. And I didn't find out that my mother took a
13 stroke in the cells down from me 'til, like, two days
14 later. Yeah, 'cause the cell happened on -- I think
15 this happened on a Friday or Saturday. I think it was
16 a Friday. It's been eight years now, so it's hard to
17 remember what day it was. But I'm pretty sure it was
18 like a Thursday or a Friday.

19 Anyways, they took me to the chapel on Sunday.
20 The chaplain -- and they told me that my mother passed
21 away. So I didn't believe them, so they let me call
22 home. And my family told me that my mother was in the
23 hospital on life support and they -- they wasn't sure
24 if she was going to make it.

25 So and I -- my aunt ended up bailing me back out.

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

4

1 And, like, a week later my mom passed away.

2 DARIA BOYARCHUK: How old are you -- how old were you at
3 that time?

4 DEVERON PAUL: How old was I? Twenty-two.

5 DARIA BOYARCHUK: And your mother?

6 DEVERON PAUL: She was 44, I think, or 45. I don't know.

7 Had me when I was 21. It happened when I was 22. My
8 mom had me when she was 21. So, yeah, she was, like,
9 43 -- no, she just turned 44, because this all
10 happened right around her birthday. She ... when she
11 ended up in hospital, it was before her birthday.
12 Yeah. Pretty sure she spent her birthday in the
13 hospital on life support, yeah. Yeah.

14 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Did you go see her at the hospital?

15 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah, every day until ... until I took her
16 off life support. Because the doctors told me that
17 she had brain damage where her stroke was so bad that
18 if she was to even recover, that she'd just be, like,
19 a vegetable. Like, she wouldn't be able to change.
20 She wouldn't be able to use the washroom by herself.
21 Like, she wouldn't be able to eat. She wouldn't be
22 able to do nothing. All she'd be able to do is just
23 lay there. So me and my family all got together, and
24 I asked my family -- like, her -- my mom's brothers
25 and sisters and even her father, you know -- 'cause I

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

5

1 didn't want to be the one to make the choice. But
2 then they all told me it was my choice, so ...

3 And I knew my mother wouldn't want any -- I
4 didn't see anybody like that in my family. To be like
5 that, where you can't even go to the washroom, can't
6 even eat, you can't do nothing. You're just pretty
7 much laying there, you know. So I knew my mother
8 wouldn't want -- she wouldn't have wanted me to keep
9 her like that.

10 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

11 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. So I took her off life support.

12 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Did you ever go back to -- to find out
13 what happened to her, why she got arrested?

14 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. Like, when I got out after this all
15 happened, my mother -- when my mother passed away, me
16 and my family, yeah, we were trying to look for
17 answers. Yeah. Yeah.

18 DARIA BOYARCHUK: And where did you -- where did you go?
19 Where did you look for answers?

20 DEVERON PAUL: Well, my aunt was still alive, my mother's
21 sister. She was doing most of the work.

22 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

23 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. Trying to find answers on why she
24 was left there on the floor in the holding cell.
25 Like, I know their policies. And they're -- like,

Statement - Public
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(Victoria Paul)

6

1 they're supposed to check up on you, like, every half
2 hour or even every 15 minutes, depending on where
3 you're at. And I asked the guard that was working --
4 it wasn't a cop that was working the holding cells.
5 It was just like ... I forget what they called them.
6 Anyways ... just people that just come in and just
7 watch the cells. They're not cops. You know what I
8 mean? They're just people that got a job, so ...

9 But I remember asking them the next morning,
10 like, "What's going on with my mother? Are you guys
11 going to get my mother out?" And he just kept telling
12 me, like, "I don't know what you're talking about."
13 Like, "We don't know where she's at." Like -- and
14 this is, like, 6:30, seven o'clock when I'm asking
15 them this.

16 When I got the report back on what happened to my
17 mother, they left her in the holding cell on the
18 floor, like, almost all -- the whole morning before
19 any of them went in there and got a respond-over
20 which -- that was just jabberish really. They
21 couldn't even say what she was trying to say, so they
22 just left her there, thinking that she was really
23 intoxicated, hung over.

24 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

25 DEVERON PAUL: But I knew that my mother wasn't that

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(Victoria Paul)

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1 intoxicated, 'cause I woke up and I was still a little
2 hung over, but I wasn't drunk. So I knew my mother
3 wouldn't have been drunk either, because we really
4 didn't even drink that much. You know what I mean?
5 So -- yeah.

6 And I found out all this, what happened to my
7 mother, after, like -- a couple months after I got
8 out. Yeah, like ... why -- I don't get why, like ...
9 what took them so long to get her -- to get her some
10 service, you know. Like, call the ambulance. Why it
11 had to take them that many rounds and why they left
12 her right on the floor, in her own urine and stuff
13 like -- like, I don't get why they would even walk by
14 anybody like that. I ... I've been in holding cells
15 before where if I fell off my bunk and I was laying on
16 floor, they always came in to check if I was all
17 right. Or if they came in -- they'd check to see if I
18 didn't hit my head too hard off the floor or -- or
19 just little things like that. You know what I mean?

20 DARIA BOYARCHUK: So did -- from what I understand, your
21 mother had a stroke [the day after she was] ~~Did -- did they~~
22 [unintelligible] in the cell or do you know when next ...?

23 DEVERON PAUL: Say it again?

24 DARIA BOYARCHUK: The time line. Your -- when your mother
25 got arrested, she was detained.

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

8

1 DEVERON PAUL: Mm-hm.

2 DARIA BOYARCHUK: When did she have this stroke? Do you

3 know?

4 DEVERON PAUL: Like, I don't --

5 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Do you have any idea?

6 DEVERON PAUL: No, I don't have a clue when it happened.

7 Like, I only know what I know from the report that

8 they gave to us.

9 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

10 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

11 DARIA BOYARCHUK: And it didn't indicate -- it didn't

12 provide any information?

13 DEVERON PAUL: All -- it provide the whole -- every time

14 that guy does he has rounds to check on people -- I

15 think it's, like, every 15 minutes -- they changed --

16 they might have changed now. I think it's, like,

17 every half an hour. I don't know. But -- yeah, like

18 ... and I would ask him. Like, I -- I'd ask him,

19 "What's going on with my mother?" And he'd just be

20 like, "I don't know." It's funny how it all happened

21 really.

22 DARIA BOYARCHUK: And when your aunt -- you said she was

23 the one who was trying to look for answers and

24 contacting the officials. What kind of responses did

25 she get? Did she get any responses at all?

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

9

1 DEVERON PAUL: It took her a few weeks. I think even -- I
2 don't even know. Maybe -- or months before she even
3 got an answer really. It's been eight years since
4 this happened, so, like, I have to think for a little
5 bit, to think ... like, it's not just, like, it
6 happened --

7 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

8 DEVERON PAUL: -- a couple months ago.

9 My aunt, she -- it took her, like ... I think it
10 was, like, two months or something before we found
11 out, like -- before we got any kind of papers
12 before -- like, yeah, it took us a few months before
13 we got a couple -- any papers to see what happened to
14 my mother. They just -- they did, like, a half-assed
15 job to get a report on what happened to my mother,
16 because my aunt wanted answers on why my mother was
17 left down on the floor for that long before they got
18 her any assistance.

19 DARIA BOYARCHUK: And at the hospital, did you ever get the
20 death certificate or did they ever provide you with
21 any documents there?

22 DEVERON PAUL: I can't even really remember, to tell you
23 the truth, it's been so long now. Yeah, I think they
24 did give me a death certificate. Yeah. It's hard to
25 remember though, 'cause there was so much family and

Statement - Public
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(Victoria Paul)

10

1 friends there.

2 DARIA BOYARCHUK: What would you like the Commission to --
3 to help you with? How do you think the Commission can
4 help you?

5 DEVERON PAUL: I think they can help me by giving --
6 giving me some answers on why my mother was left there
7 so long unattended before she got any kind of
8 assistance and why it took them so long to give us any
9 kind of reports on what happened that night. Yeah.

10 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Is there anything else that you think
11 your family and you personally would like to request
12 or anything that you think ...?

13 DEVERON PAUL: Really what I would like to know is just
14 why -- like I said, like, why they left her so long --

15 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

16 DEVERON PAUL: -- before they got her any kind of
17 assistance. 'Cause they told me -- they -- they tried
18 telling me that if -- regardless if they came and
19 helped her when they did, if it was a couple hours
20 before it happened, that she still would have took a
21 stroke and died. I don't believe that. That's why
22 they got hospitals, so that people that have, like,
23 little minor strokes and stuff, or if they have
24 strokes -- and if I they feel that a stroke is coming
25 along and they go to hospital, they give them

Statement - Public
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(Victoria Paul)

11

1 medicine, helps them and whatever. But they try ...

2 they got these medical examiners or --

3 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

4 DEVERON PAUL: -- whatever that say that if -- regardless

5 if we -- if they got my mother to the hospital, she

6 would have took a stroke and she would have died

7 anyways. Like, I just don't believe in that, you

8 know. Nobody would know, 'cause nobody did anything

9 to see what the outcome would have been. You know

10 what I mean?

11 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

12 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. Yeah.

13 DARIA BOYARCHUK: So the day of your mother's arrest back

14 in the bar, I know you said that she was trying to --

15 to help you out.

16 DEVERON PAUL: Mm-hm.

17 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Resisting the cops from arresting you.

18 Do you think this is the reason why she got arrested?

19 Or do you think there was something else behind it?

20 Could you tell us a bit more about --

21 DEVERON PAUL: No, I think it was just -- my mother was

22 just trying to stick up for me.

23 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

24 DEVERON PAUL: She thought, you know, the cops would

25 probably just look and -- to single somebody out at

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

12

1 the bars really ... yeah. And all she was trying to
2 do was just trying to help me --

3 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

4 DEVERON PAUL: -- calm down. Like, you know what I mean?

5 Excuse me. And -- yeah, she was just trying to help
6 me out. Like, asked the cop, "Like, why are you guys
7 arresting my son?" And, "What did my son do?"
8 And ... yeah.

9 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

10 DEVERON PAUL: She was just trying to find out why they
11 were arresting me really.

12 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

13 DEVERON PAUL: And she wasn't doing nothing. Like ... the
14 cops were telling her to step back, and she would --
15 she stepped back, I guess is why -- I don't get why
16 they went after her. She -- I don't know. Cops -- I
17 don't know.

18 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

19 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

20 DARIA BOYARCHUK: After your mother passed away, was there
21 a way how you and your family honoured your mother
22 or ... did you have a ceremony or ...?

23 DEVERON PAUL: We all -- yeah, we had a ceremony and ...
24 yeah, we did have a ceremony for my mother.

25 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Is there something that you want -- do

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(Victoria Paul)

13

1 you have some favourite memories of your mother
2 perhaps that you would like to share with us? I know
3 you said she was kind, she was very nice and caring.
4 DEVERON PAUL: My mother was my best friend, 'cause that's
5 all there was was, me and my mother. My father wasn't
6 there when I was little. So my mother brought me up.
7 My -- yeah, my whole life.
8 DARIA BOYARCHUK: What happened to your father?
9 DEVERON PAUL: He -- I don't know where he was at this
10 time. I think he was living in the city somewhere or
11 something. I'm not too sure. But I used to only see
12 my father when I was -- like, on special occasions,
13 like my birthday and stuff and, like, Christmas and
14 Easter, 'til I was 13. And then after that, I just
15 seen him -- I'd see him around on reserve.
16 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.
17 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.
18 DARIA BOYARCHUK: So growing up, it was just, like you
19 said, you and your mother. You don't have any
20 siblings. Where did you look for support, for
21 emotional support when all this happened, like, when
22 your mother passed away and ...?
23 DEVERON PAUL: My family and friends.
24 DARIA BOYARCHUK: When you say "family," who do you mean?
25 DEVERON PAUL: Like, my aunts and uncles.

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

14

1 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Your aunts and uncles, okay.

2 DEVERON PAUL: My cousins. And my friends, my close
3 friends.

4 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Would you like to have found more support
5 or more access to perhaps community services where you
6 can go and get comfort? Yeah?

7 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. They have programs and supports like
8 that on my reserve. It's just -- I just chose not to
9 go to them. That's all. Yeah. Not that I didn't
10 want to. It was just ... I just didn't think I needed
11 them at the time.

12 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Well, I think we do have some house
13 support here. We have some resources that you
14 received the phone numbers and contact information in
15 the blue folder that you received. Did -- yeah?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, and then follow-up care after.

17 DARIA BOYARCHUK: So if you ever want to contact anyone,
18 there are a lot of people who will be available to you
19 and -- able to talk to you and you'll be able to share
20 your story and what's going on with you. But I -- in
21 conclusion, I think I would like to ask if there is
22 anything else about your mother or anything else that
23 you would like the Commission to know. Just feel free
24 to share with us.

25 If you'd like to take a break and think about it

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

15

1 a little bit and come back later, it's also perfectly
2 fine. Just what you're most comfortable with.

3 DEVERON PAUL: I just ... like, why nothing happened to
4 any of the police officers that work in
5 [unintelligible]. Nothing even happened to them.
6 They didn't get suspended. Like, nothing. Like,
7 they're still working, still living their day like
8 nothing ever happened. Messed my life up though.

9 DARIA BOYARCHUK: How do you think this has affected you
10 personally, this mistreatment by the police, treatment
11 of your mother but also you personally? How did it
12 affect you?

13 DEVERON PAUL: [unintelligible]

14 DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- and your ...?

15 DEVERON PAUL: Well, for starters, it took my mother from
16 me. So that was, like, my support that helped me with
17 anything I needed help with. And when I lost her,
18 then I was just ... I had to not look for -- or not
19 even asked for support from my family and friends. I
20 just ... wasn't used to getting support --

21 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

22 DEVERON PAUL: -- from family and friends, because I
23 always had my mother there to support me with
24 anything. Didn't matter if it was court or money
25 issues or ... she was always there.

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

16

1 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Deveron, I think you have come here
2 to -- to share with us and let us know -- be her
3 voice, be the voice of your mother. I think what I
4 would like to -- to see if you would be interested in
5 sharing with us is how do you like -- how would you
6 like the Commission to -- to remember your mother by?

7 DEVERON PAUL: My mother? How would I want to remember my
8 mother?

9 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

10 DEVERON PAUL: Remember my mother as a kind, nice woman
11 that would take anybody that was hungry and give them
12 something to eat. If they needed cigarettes, she'd
13 give them cigarettes. If they needed a little bit of
14 money, she'd give you what she could. You know what I
15 mean? Yeah. It's been so many years now. I -- it's
16 hard to ... I guess I learned to just block out
17 certain things. I try not to remember it.

18 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Does blocking out these memories help you
19 grieve? Or is this -- do you think this was your way
20 of grieving?

21 DEVERON PAUL: I think it's my way of grieving, yeah.
22 Yeah.

23 DARIA BOYARCHUK: So in your family, do you ever talk -- or
24 did your mother have any friends in the community? Do
25 they ever talk to you about it -- about your mother,

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

17

1 about what had happened?

2 DEVERON PAUL: Say it again?

3 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Do you ever -- within your family, do you

4 ever talk about your mother? Do you -- do you ever

5 hear from her friends, for example?

6 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. Like ... yeah. Like, those two

7 people -- the people that brought me out here were

8 my -- they were my mother's friends, yeah.

9 DARIA BOYARCHUK: People who told you about the inquiry?

10 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

11 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

12 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. My mother grew up with them, so ...

13 yeah. But I don't really usually talk about it that

14 much, no. Once in a while I talk about it, but I try

15 to -- I try my best not to talk about it.

16 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah. Because like you said, you want to

17 block out --

18 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

19 DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- the memories. Okay.

20 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

21 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

22 DEVERON PAUL: I still struggle with my emotions

23 sometimes, but ... whatever. Who doesn't?

24 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

25 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

Statement - Public
Deveron Paul
(Victoria Paul)

18

1 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Is there anything else that ...? No?

2 Was your mother a residential school survivor, do
3 you know?

4 DEVERON PAUL: No.

5 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

6 DEVERON PAUL: That would have been my mother's parents,
7 my grandfather and my grandmother, were residential
8 survivors.

9 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

10 DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

11 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you very much.

12 It is 11:31, and we are about to conclude our
13 taking of statement with Deveron Paul.

14 [PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 11:31 A.M.]

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Joanna M. Cross, Official Reporter in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, do hereby certify:

That this is a true and accurate transcript of these proceedings recorded on sound-recording apparatus, transcribed to the best of my skill and ability in accordance with applicable standards.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 15th day of April, 2018.

Official Reporter, RDR CRR RCR CBC CPP

COAST REPORTING SERVICES INC.