Deveron Paul,
In relation to Victoria Paul

Statement gathered by Daria Boyarchuk

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II

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Statement Gatherer: Daria Boyarchuk

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Documents submitted with testimony: none
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.
Deveron Paul  
(Victoria Paul)  

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anyways, the cops took me -- the bouncers kicked me out. I got outside. The cops were out there and they started arresting me. But I wasn't resisting arrest. And I was fighting with the [unintelligible]
or whatever. And then I -- my mom come out and tried
to help me out. And they were going to arrest my mom,
but I told them, "If you guys just -- I'll give up and
stop resisting if you guys just don't touch my
mother." So they were like, "Okay." They told me,
"Yeah." They nodded their heads, so I was like all
right, then. There was, like, five of them. Yeah,
about five or six. And I just -- like, I gave up,
whatever. And they threw me in the cop car. And then
they went after my mother.

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

So ... I ended up going to the Truro holding
cells. And then they brought my mother after me
and ... I remember trying to talk to my mother, but
she was, like, four cells down or something. Yeah,
she was, like, four cells down, so it was hard to
hear. But she was down there, 'cause I -- she could
hear me yelling. And ...
I woke up the next morning, and when they were taking me to call the justice of peace I asked them what's going on with my mother. Like, "Are you guys going to let my mother out today?" And they said -- they just told me they -- they don't know what's going on with her. So they threw me back in the cell and ... I just went back -- like, laid back down. And then when I woke up -- when they woke me back up to take me out or to transfer me, I asked them what happened to my mother. Like, "Where's my mother?"

And they -- they just told me they didn't know what happened. And I didn't find out that my mother took a stroke in the cells down from me 'til, like, two days later. Yeah, 'cause the cell happened on -- I think this happened on a Friday or Saturday. I think it was a Friday. It's been eight years now, so it's hard to remember what day it was. But I'm pretty sure it was like a Thursday or a Friday.

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

So and I -- my aunt ended up bailing me back out.
And, like, a week later my mom passed away.

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

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: And your mother?

DEVERON PAUL: She was 44, I think, or 45. I don't know. Had me when I was 21. It happened when I was 22. My mom had me when she was 21. So, yeah, she was, like, 43 -- no, she just turned 44, because this all happened right around her birthday. She ... when she ended up in hospital, it was before her birthday. Yeah. Pretty sure she spent her birthday in the hospital on life support, yeah. Yeah.

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

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah, every day until ... until I took her off life support. Because the doctors told me that she had brain damage where her stroke was so bad that if she was to even recover, that she'd just be, like, a vegetable. Like, she wouldn't be able to change. She wouldn't be able to use the washroom by herself. Like, she wouldn't be able to eat. She wouldn't be able to do nothing. All she'd be able to do is just lay there. So me and my family all got together, and I asked my family -- like, her -- my mom's brothers and sisters and even her father, you know -- 'cause I
didn't want to be the one to make the choice. But then they all told me it was my choice, so ...

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

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

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

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

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

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. Trying to find answers on why she was left there on the floor in the holding cell. Like, I know their policies. And they're -- like,
they're supposed to check up on you, like, every half hour or even every 15 minutes, depending on where you're at. And I asked the guard that was working -- it wasn't a cop that was working the holding cells. It was just like ... I forget what they called them. Anyways ... just people that just come in and just watch the cells. They're not cops. You know what I mean? They're just people that got a job, so ...

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

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

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

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

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

DEVERON PAUL: Say it again?

DARIA BOYARCHUK: The time line. Your -- when your mother
got arrested, she was detained.
DEVERON PAUL: Mm-hm.

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

DEVERON PAUL: Like, I don't --

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Do you have any idea?

DEVERON PAUL: No, I don't have a clue when it happened. Like, I only know what I know from the report that they gave to us.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: And it didn't indicate -- it didn't provide any information?

DEVERON PAUL: All -- it provide the whole -- every time that guy does he has rounds to check on people -- I think it's, like, every 15 minutes -- they changed -- they might have changed now. I think it's, like, every half an hour. I don't know. But -- yeah, like ... and I would ask him. Like, I -- I'd ask him, "What's going on with my mother?" And he'd just be like, "I don't know." It's funny how it all happened really.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: And when your aunt -- you said she was the one who was trying to look for answers and contacting the officials. What kind of responses did she get? Did she get any responses at all?
DEVERON PAUL: It took her a few weeks. I think even -- I
don't even know. Maybe -- or months before she even
got an answer really. It's been eight years since
this happened, so, like, I have to think for a little
bit, to think ... like, it's not just, like, it
happened --

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

DEVERON PAUL: -- a couple months ago.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

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

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

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

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

And ... yeah.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you'd like to take a break and think about it
a little bit and come back later, it's also perfectly fine. Just what you're most comfortable with.

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

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

DEVERON PAUL: [unintelligible]

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- and your ...?

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

DEVERON PAUL: -- from family and friends, because I always had my mother there to support me with anything. Didn't matter if it was court or money issues or ... she was always there.
DARIA BOYARCHUK: Deveron, I think you have come here to -- to share with us and let us know -- be her voice, be the voice of your mother. I think what I would like to -- to see if you would be interested in sharing with us is how do you like -- how would you like the Commission to -- to remember your mother by?

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

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

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

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

Yeah.

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

DEVERON PAUL: Say it again?

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Do you ever -- within your family, do you ever talk about your mother? Do you -- do you ever hear from her friends, for example?

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah. Like ... yeah. Like, those two people -- the people that brought me out here were my -- they were my mother's friends, yeah.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: People who told you about the inquiry?

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

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

yeah. But I don't really usually talk about it that much, no. Once in a while I talk about it, but I try to -- I try my best not to talk about it.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah. Because like you said, you want to block out --

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- the memories. Okay.

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

DEVERON PAUL: I still struggle with my emotions sometimes, but ... whatever. Who doesn't?

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.
DARIA BOYARCHUK: Is there anything else that ...? No? Was your mother a residential school survivor, do you know?

DEVERON PAUL: No.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

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

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mm-hm.

DEVERON PAUL: Yeah.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you very much.

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

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