

MISSING WOMEN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Documents for Cross Examination of District 2 Panel

Department of Justice

Tab	Concordance DocID	Description	Exhibit Number
1.	PEEL-004-000430 (p. 1-109)	June 1, 2001 - DC Evans' Interview of Dave Dickson	
2.	RCMP-005-002266	February 8, 2002 – Note from Clary, subject: Project Evenhanded Missing Sex Trade Workers	
3.	VPD-006-007814 (p. 5-8)	October 24, 2001 - Exploration of resources needs to deal with present DTES situation	
4.	RCMP-050-000901 (p. 102)	April 4, 2001 - Homicide Investigation Case Log of Jim McKnight	<u>Exhibit M1, Volume 2, Tab 68</u> DC Evans - DOJ Documents
5.	VPD-006-009830 (p. 74-75)	Lori Shenher's Annotated Pickton Timeline	<u>Exhibit U, Tab 29</u> AGC Shenher Documents

DAVE DICKSON

1 Vancouver BC

2 01 June 2011

3

4 MS. EVANS: Good morning, it's Wednesday, June 1st, 2011, and
5 we are in the Davies Commission office at 900 Howe
6 Street. I am Jennifer Evans, Deputy Chief, Peel
7 Regional Police; and I have with me Detective
8 Sergeant Heather Ramore, Peel Regional Police.
9 And with us is retired member Vancouver City
10 Police officer, Dave Dickson.

11 1 Q And Dave, we've seen your name spelled numerous
12 ways. Can you just spell your last name for us?

13 A D-i-c-k-s-o-n.

14 2 Q Okay, that's perfect. Thank you very much.
15 That's the way I had it, so.

16 We're just going to -- we spoke, just before
17 the tapes went on, I'm just going to ask you your
18 background and then I've got several questions.
19 So, at any time you, if you don't know the answer
20 or you want to take a break, just let me know and
21 we'll do that, so. Okay?

22 So, can you first just tell us your
23 background, when you first started working with
24 the Vancouver -- when you were hired with the
25 Vancouver City Police and where you worked when

DAVE DICKSON

1 you --

2 A I joined the police department in 1980, May of
3 1980, and I was assigned to the Downtown Eastside
4 of Vancouver, which is the Hastings corridor from
5 Main Street, and I remained there for the next
6 basically 28 years.

7 3 Q You never worked anywhere else, just Downtown
8 Eastside?

9 A Yes, that's right.

10 4 Q And was your role always the same --

11 A It, it --

12 5 Q -- in those 28 years?

13 A -- changed a bit over -- you know, from a beat
14 police officer to just working in a car responding
15 to 911 calls, you know. The last 15 years of my
16 career, when they started talking about community
17 policing, the first, very first community office
18 was opened up at Carrall and Hastings Street, and
19 inspector, Inspector Gary Greer was responsible
20 for that. He approached me and asked me if I
21 would be the liaison officer for that office, and
22 I accepted after he explained to me that he just
23 wanted me to, you know, pick my own days off, pick
24 my own shifts, do whatever I want. So, I couldn't
25 say "no". And I had a really, you know, strong

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1 relationship with the people that were operating
2 the office and the community. So, I accepted that
3 job.

4 So, for the last 15 years of my career, I was
5 the community liaison for the Downtown Eastside,
6 and because of the contacts I had made with
7 organizations and people, my pager was available
8 seven days a week, 24 hours, you know, a day
9 basically. So, people got used to that.

10 The last couple of years of my career -- I
11 retired actually in 2005.

12 6 Q Oh, okay.

13 A Because they made changes to our Pension Act, but
14 I was contracted back, you know, because of the
15 community sort of outcry. You know, and my
16 contract lasted for two years. Then I was
17 recontracted back as a civilian role as a sex
18 trade liaison for the Vancouver Police Department.

19 7 Q Oh. So, when did that occur? I didn't know --
20 wasn't aware of that, so.

21 A That occurred I think 2006 to 2008.

22 8 Q Okay.

23 A So, the last two -- and it was argued within the
24 Department, you know, that they couldn't do it,
25 but then some inspector -- because the union was

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1 involved and they didn't, for whatever reason,
2 didn't want me contracted out. You know, but some
3 inspector pointed out that they could make it a
4 civilian position, you know, to his credit. And
5 so they brought me back in a civilian position as
6 a sex trade liaison because of my contacts and,
7 and close work with the women.

8 9 Q And was that a new program, the sex trade liaison
9 officer?

10 A It is. It's, it's, five years ago, the police
11 department spent a lot of time and money coming up
12 with a strategic plan. You know, I think the
13 booklet and all the information is on the
14 Internet. Part of that booklet contained the
15 section on vulnerable people and it called for the
16 creation of a sex trade liaison person.

17 10 Q Excellent.

18 A Yeah. So, that --

19 11 Q That was a --

20 A -- was a --

21 12 Q -- (inaudible) person, so.

22 A Yeah, I think certain inspectors were assigned to
23 different parts of the book, trying to make --
24 implement it.

25 13 Q Hm-hmm.

DAVE DICKSON

1 A You know, I'm not sure if a lot of it ever got
2 implemented, but the sex trade liaison role was
3 brought about by an inspector saying that it could
4 be a civilian position.

5 14 Q And then where would you work then?

6 A The same area. You know, really, wherever I
7 wanted in the city. You know, but my main focus
8 because of the, you know, the number of women who
9 were down in the Downtown Eastside, of course, you
10 know, and the organizations that serviced most of
11 them, you know, the support workers were down
12 there, too.

13 15 Q And would you, did you work out of the office, it
14 was at 312 Main, is that, or were you --

15 A I had an office at, you know, 2120, and then I was
16 still working out of a Safety Office at Carrall
17 and Hastings --

18 16 Q Okay.

19 A -- at that time. And it really wasn't confined to
20 down there. I went, you know, I used to get calls
21 from the organizations for escort, you know,
22 girls, just about anybody, all over the city. So,
23 I used to go anywhere.

24 17 Q Okay. And is that position still with city,
25 Vancouver City Police?

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1 A It is, yeah. When I left, they replaced it, you
2 know, with somebody else.

3 18 Q Okay. Interesting. So, 28 years in the Downtown
4 Eastside. What training, what formal training did
5 you receive in relation to sex trade workers?

6 A None. You know, what it was, really, was my, my
7 length of time in the Downtown Eastside, and my
8 desire to get out, you know, in the early '80s
9 when I started on the job and get to know the
10 people in the area. I developed a relationship.
11 I guess I have always been really good with
12 people, you know, because, you know, I loved
13 talking to people and, you know, helping them if I
14 can. So, I think that was all it was, that I
15 developed a relationship with everybody and they
16 got to trust me.

17 19 Q Hm-hmm.

18 A You know, there was never any, you know -- I'm
19 trying to think of how to put this. A lot of the
20 women down there and the users, the dealers, you
21 know, even had problems with police officers, you
22 know, for a variety of reasons. They all knew
23 that they could come to me and trust me enough to
24 either share information with or, or ask me for
25 help and I would usually find a way to do it, even

DAVE DICKSON

1 if it means stepping out of the box sometimes.

2 20 Q Hm-hmm.

3 A You know, so, you know, I got the reputation down

4 there as, as, you know, helping people.

5 21 Q So, you never received any formal training at all

6 on sex trade workers. Did you ever, over time,

7 because you recognized there was a lack of

8 training out there, did you ever put together

9 training or do any training for officers, --

10 A No.

11 22 Q -- yourself?

12 A You know, I did talks, you know, to certain

13 officers when they were coming through the, you

14 know, the academy, before they went out on the

15 road.

16 23 Q Hm-hmm.

17 A You know, but I think it sort of fell apart a bit

18 because I was a bit too honest, you know, --

19 24 Q Oh, okay.

20 A -- you know, and said that there are police

21 officers out there that don't treat the women very

22 well and take advantage of the women.

23 25 Q Okay.

24 A So, I think, you know, some people didn't care for

25 that approach.

DAVE DICKSON

1 26 Q Okay. Okay. Did you ever receive any training
2 with regard to missing persons?

3 A No.

4 27 Q Okay. So, can you describe the Downtown Eastside
5 for us and your specific relationship with the
6 different communities and the different groups
7 down there?

8 A I mean, the Downtown Eastside is quite different.
9 It's become I guess a dumping ground for, you
10 know, drug users and, and all sorts of things over
11 the years, because the first needle exchange
12 opened down there, I think in around 1980, you
13 know, in the early '80s.

14 28 Q Oh, that --

15 A And that was the first one in North America.

16 29 Q Okay.

17 A You know. And I, I had a really close
18 relationship with the organization that opened
19 that. And the original plan was they were going
20 to open in different cities but that all fell
21 apart. So, we ended up with the only one down
22 there. And so, over the years, it basically, you
23 know, has festered and become a harm-reduction,
24 you know, sort of monster. And by that I mean,
25 you know, the needles, you know, the condoms, the

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1 money, the hundreds of millions of dollars that
2 have been poured in down there, showing people how
3 to basically live, you know, as addicts, you know,
4 instead of actually trying to help them get away
5 from there.

6 30 Q Right.

7 A And so people from other cities, if they wanted
8 to, you know, get drugs, they would come to the
9 Downtown Eastside. A lot of them would get stuck
10 down there. I mean, the availability of the
11 drugs, the services, everything was down there.
12 You know, so that was one of the problems.

13 But the organizations, I mean, I had such a
14 good relationship with them. If people were in
15 town looking for their sons or daughters or, or
16 loved ones that were addicted to the streets, most
17 people would get directed to the needle exchange,
18 and then the needle exchange would ultimately
19 direct them to me, you know, because they said
20 that they knew this police officer that was quite
21 involved and would give them a hand.

22 31 Q Okay. Okay. And how often would you, during your
23 career, and I think probably more, if I focussed
24 more on the late '90s, into the early 2000s, how
25 often, how often would you encounter police

DAVE DICKSON

1 officers from different police services doing
2 police work in the Downtown Eastside? Because
3 some, some sort of police investigations brought
4 them down there. Did that happen a lot?

5 A From out, from outlying agencies you mean?

6 32 Q Yeah.

7 A Not a lot. I mean, once every couple of months
8 you would see, you know, say, some RCMP would come
9 in, you know, because of a homicide.

10 33 Q Hm-hmm?

11 A Yeah, but it wouldn't happen a lot.

12 34 Q No, eh?

13 A No.

14 35 Q Okay. So, can you tell us, back in the, the late
15 1990s, can you tell us what your understanding was
16 of the sex trade workers and their habits and
17 their life-styles? Like --

18 A I mean, their life-styles were horrendous. I
19 mean, a lot of 'em don't have a place to stay
20 because of their, you know, their drug use. You
21 know, it's so rampant that they have a tough time
22 keeping a, a room. They get kicked out because
23 they're, you know, the constant traffic of them
24 bringing people in. So, a lot of them were on the
25 streets, you know, either sleeping in shelters, or

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1 they would, they would go for maybe three or four
2 days without sleep and then they would crash
3 somewhere, you know. And what changed it really
4 was the change in drugs. Like, when I first
5 started on the job, it was heroin.

6 36 Q Right.

7 A You know, the use was minimal, because you can get
8 by, if you are a heroin user, maybe, you know,
9 four or five times a day. You know, in the late
10 '80s, close to 1990, it started to change to crack
11 cocaine with the influx of the South Americans,
12 you know, down there. And then around '90 -- '94,
13 '95, it changed to crack cocaine. And that was
14 when it just, you know, went through the roof.
15 You know, the heroin is not bad; cocaine, all of a
16 sudden, it goes up to 20, 30 times a day; but the
17 crack cocaine is continuous. The minute they've
18 finished a little rock of cocaine, they were
19 looking for the next one.

20 So, the basic -- or the guys, you know, make
21 their money by breaking into cars, breaking into
22 buildings. The women make the money with their
23 bodies. You know, but it's just, it's continuous.
24 So, the girls would go for three or four nights
25 without any sleep at all, and then they would just

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1 literally crash somewhere at an organization.
2 Like, WISH is one of the better organizations down
3 there. The women can go there for, you know, one
4 meal a night at 6:00 till 10 o'clock at night.

5 37 Q Hm-hmm.

6 A You know, and they can crash on the couch and have
7 a sleep or, you know, watch TV, or do whatever
8 they want. They have makeup and sometimes
9 showers.

10 38 Q And what would you to say if someone said they
11 were a transient group, sex trade workers were
12 transient in nature, can you tell me your thoughts
13 on that?

14 A There, there is some truth to that. You know, I
15 mean, not so much with the drug user population.
16 I mean, you have really got to separate sex trade
17 workers from, say, from high track, which, you
18 know, the term we use for, say, Seymour. You
19 know, years ago, it used to be Davie Street, the
20 high-track girls meaning the -- I'm trying to use
21 the right term without being offensive.

22 39 Q Yeah.

23 A You know, the girls that aren't addicted, you
24 know, and beat up, you know.

25 40 Q Yes.

DAVE DICKSON

1 A And the price is, you know, considerably
2 different. In high track, you can't touch anybody
3 for under \$200.

4 41 Q Hm-hmm.

5 A A lot of them are controlled by pimps. The
6 Downtown Eastside, on the other hand, you've got
7 the, you know, the girls down there that come from
8 hugely dysfunctional families, a lot of sexual
9 abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, and a lot of
10 them are born into it. You know, I have had
11 10-year-old kids that were literally being sold by
12 their mothers. So, that there is a real
13 difference in different areas. So you have to
14 sort of separate them.

15 42 Q So, what about the Downtown Eastside then? If we
16 focus on those ones then.

17 A Well, the Downtown Eastside, like I say, a lot of
18 them are born into it. So, they're, they're
19 tragic. Their lifestyle is horrendous.

20 43 Q But are they transient? Like, would they --

21 A No.

22 44 Q -- all of a sudden, they pick up and move over to
23 Abbotsford or go over to New Westminster or go to
24 Alberta or Toronto or Montreal?

25 A Not very often. Some of them would. Some of them

DAVE DICKSON

1 would move out to, you know, to, say, Abbotsford
2 if they met somebody and trying to get away from
3 it, you know, but rarely. Most of them are sort
4 of born and raised down there and they stay down
5 there until they pass away.

6 45 Q Okay. And I understand that Deb Mearns was a
7 community liaison person in the late 1990s. Can
8 you tell me about her and how she worked with the
9 police?

10 A She had a really good relationship. She was the
11 one that was picked to be the coordinator for the
12 Safety Office at Carrall and Hastings when they
13 opened it.

14 46 Q Okay.

15 A And that's how I was, you know, chosen for the
16 liaison officer, because I had a relationship with
17 Deb Mearns and John Turvey. John Turvey was, was
18 one of the greatest guys I ever met down there,
19 because he was the founder of the Downtown
20 Eastside Youth Activities Services. You know,
21 awesome guy. Him and his staff would stand out
22 there in the 100 East Hastings offering help to
23 people in the early, you know, '80s I think. You
24 know, so, I had a very good relationship with Deb
25 and John.

DAVE DICKSON

1 47 Q Okay.

2 A And she had a really good relationship with the

3 police department.

4 48 Q She did?

5 A Yes.

6 49 Q Okay. Yeah, I think I read her name somewhere,

7 the fact that she -- did she try to -- when you

8 were, at some point, somebody was trying to

9 transfer you, she was making inquiries and --

10 A Yeah, she was the one that stirred the pot.

11 50 Q Okay.

12 A She's great.

13 51 Q And successfully so though, from what I

14 understand.

15 A No, she's very good at stirring the pot.

16 52 Q But successful in the fact that you didn't get

17 transferred, right?

18 A Yes.

19 53 Q Because she --

20 A She's very organized. You know, she's an ex-

21 lawyer and --

22 54 Q Okay.

23 A -- you know, very smart, very organized and like a

24 pitbull.

25 55 Q Okay. So, late 1990s, you get tasked with looking

DAVE DICKSON

1 into the missing women, into some missing women.
2 Now, did you notice the women were missing before
3 or did you only notice because you were given a
4 task to try and find them?
5 A Yes.
6 56 Q So, yes, yes to which? Yes to what?
7 A I only noticed because I was given the task of
8 looking at the original list.
9 57 Q Okay.
10 A Because, before that, I guess I was so busy, I
11 hadn't thought about it. But in, in 19 --
12 58 Q I understand you were --
13 A -- '96 --
14 59 Q I am just going to present you with a document
15 here that we --
16 A Yes.
17 60 Q We were given documents from the Vancouver City
18 Police. So, uhm, I guess two pages here and
19 they're -- do you want me to describe them for you
20 for the --
21 A No.
22 61 Q This contains the list of how many others?
23 A Seventy-two, if I remember right.
24 62 Q Seventy-two missing women, and you were tasked to
25 try and track them down and find out their

DAVE DICKSON

1 whereabouts. Now, and I think as a result of
2 that, that this is a letter that came in from
3 somebody, and then you actually created a Word
4 document, and this is now a four-page, four pages,
5 and you have them accounted for and you actually
6 have responded in an alphabetical order to the
7 victims, to the missing women, and you did his
8 response. Do you recall that?

9 A I do. I thought there was more, for some reason
10 or another. Oh, no.

11 63 Q Seventy-two? You thought there was more than 72?

12 A Oh, no, sorry. No, I think -- no, if I'm looking
13 at this one, there is only 48. This is a
14 different one.

15 64 Q Oh, okay.

16 A But this was -- yeah, I remember the 72 or 71
17 number, --

18 65 Q And --

19 A -- which is this one.

20 66 Q -- how did you go about trying to find the
21 whereabouts of all these women?

22 A Uhm, Ministry of Families records. You know, I
23 had a contact with the Ministry. You know, so a
24 lot of 'em, you know, I checked with organizations
25 down there. Police computer, you know, the CPIC.

DAVE DICKSON

1 A lot of 'em had warrants out for, for extended
2 periods of time. So, it just didn't fit with
3 their lifestyle. Because the women that are down
4 there are, are checked, you know, almost on a
5 daily basis, if not weekly.

6 67 Q By who? By the police?

7 A By the police, yes.

8 68 Q Right.

9 A So, all of a sudden, when, when they're not
10 checked, you know something is wrong, you know.
11 So, that's sort of how it started. I checked the
12 police computer records. Some of them had
13 warrants, no contact. For me the, you know, the
14 Ministry records was the kicker. You know,
15 because when you checked with, with them, and, and
16 not on this list, you know, but on my second one,
17 I ended up doing as a result of this. You know,
18 so I checked and seen where some of these were
19 collecting social assistance cheques.

20 69 Q Right. So, you were able to find out whether they
21 were cashing their cheques or not?

22 A Yeah. Some of them were still living and had
23 moved, you know, back to the reserves in some
24 cases, you know, back to other cities, you know.
25 And in some cases, I couldn't, you know --

DAVE DICKSON

1 70 Q Here I've got -- this is a, it looks like it's a
2 summary of what you've done from the 12th of
3 March, 1997. Maybe I can give you a chance to
4 review that and look at that.

5 A Yeah, I remember this. Yeah. Yeah, some of the
6 names were similar, so it was really, without
7 going to the town and checking on the person
8 personally, --

9 71 Q Right.

10 A -- you know, you couldn't say if it was actually
11 the right person.

12 72 Q And part of your struggle, was it the fact that --
13 I notice that a lot of, a lot of the girls had
14 multiple aliases. Was that a, a struggle or did
15 it make your job a little more difficult as well?

16 A A little bit, but not a, not a huge factor.

17 73 Q Okay. So, do you remember back then, what was the
18 policy for the Vancouver City Police with regards
19 to reporting of a family member or reporting
20 somebody missing? Did that have to be a family
21 member if I wanted to report somebody missing?

22 A Yes.

23 74 Q So, if I phoned and said, "Hey, like, I work on
24 the streets with my best friend, and her and I
25 work every day together, and the last, I last saw

DAVE DICKSON

1 her two nights ago getting into a car and I
2 haven't seen her since," the Vancouver City Police
3 would not take that report?

4 A No. Not to my knowledge.

5 75 Q Wow.

6 A The policy was different back then and they
7 weren't -- like, their policy wasn't really to
8 look for people, you know, just to report 'em.
9 And that was one of the problems I think. And
10 then the person taking the report wasn't probably
11 the most sympathetic.

12 76 Q Okay. So, back in -- so, let's go back to the
13 policy. So, there was no policy with regards to,
14 or there was a policy of the fact that if you were
15 a family member, you could report; if you weren't,
16 then the Vancouver Police wouldn't take a report?

17 A No, not to my knowledge, they wouldn't take a
18 report --

19 77 Q Okay.

20 A -- unless you were a family member.

21 78 Q Okay. And was there a 24-hour rule as well, that
22 you are aware of that, you know, somebody had to
23 be missing 24 hours to be reported, or was that --

24 A I think so.

25 79 Q -- just depending on the circumstances?

DAVE DICKSON

1 A I think it was 24 hours.

2 80 Q Okay.

3 A Yeah.

4 81 Q Okay.

5 A And it would depend, like, you know, on the

6 circumstances. Certainly if somebody had some

7 evidence that something had happened, you know.

8 82 Q And how much contact did you have with the -- from

9 what I understand, Vancouver has had a Missing

10 Persons Unit for quite some time.

11 A Yeah.

12 83 Q Do you know how long they have had a Missing

13 Persons Unit?

14 A I don't.

15 84 Q Okay. And how often would you have contact with

16 them, or did you ever have contact with them

17 during your career?

18 A Probably once a week I would go up there, because

19 my, my big focus was on the street kids, --

20 85 Q Okay.

21 A -- you know, back then. And so I would go up

22 there once a week and check with, you know, the --

23 I'm not sure what her title was, the secretary

24 that worked there as -- I think she had a, you

25 know, almost a detective title.

DAVE DICKSON

1 86 Q Okay.

2 A But she wasn't. She was a civilian employee.

3 87 Q Okay. And who was that?

4 A Sandy Cunningham.

5 88 Q Okay.

6 A You know, so I would --

7 89 Q Sandy Cunningham or Sandy --

8 A Sorry, I am thinking of a lawyer. Sandy -- shoot,

9 Sandy Cunningham is a lawyer. Oh, man, that's

10 bad. I can't --

11 90 Q Sandy Cameron?

12 A Sandy Cameron.

13 91 Q Okay.

14 A I, I got one letter right.

15 92 Q No, you're right, close.

16 A Yeah, and, you know, she would record the stuff.

17 And, and I would just check the file to see if

18 there was any new kids that were missing or if

19 she'd had any information. Or on the contrary, if

20 I found, had checked one of the kids, you know, I

21 would go up there and give her, you know, that

22 information so she could take it off her missing

23 list --

24 93 Q Okay.

25 A -- or, or put a note on it. Because the kids I

DAVE DICKSON

1 deal with over the years are placed in group homes
2 and they're habitual runaways.

3 94 Q Hm-hmm?

4 A You know, so, it's almost a daily occurrence where
5 somebody from the group home would phone in --

6 95 Q Right.

7 A -- and they would take the missing. But then I
8 would run into the kid that day and go in and tell
9 Sandy.

10 96 Q Okay. So, you had a lot of contact actually with
11 her --

12 A Yeah.

13 97 Q -- once a week?

14 A At least a weekly, you know, basis I was up there.

15 98 Q Okay. Uhm --

16 A And unless, like I said before, they didn't
17 actively go out searching for it, but if they had
18 a tip -- I think there was another detective that
19 worked out of there. If they had a tip that the
20 kid was somewhere, I think that they would have
21 assigned it to him and he would go out and look
22 for, you know, --

23 99 Q He would go out and look for them?

24 A -- knock on the door.

25 100 Q Okay. And when -- were you aware of any times

DAVE DICKSON

1 when a missing person actually investigation then
2 was treated as a homicide investigation?

3 A I can't remember back then.

4 101 Q Okay.

5 A There's been a couple since then, but I can't
6 remember the time period. I don't, I don't
7 remember back then, --

8 102 Q Okay.

9 A -- if there was any missings that turned into
10 homicides.

11 103 Q Okay. Do you remember what your police
12 department's policy was on submitting ViCLAS
13 submissions, making a ViCLAS submission?

14 A No, I don't remember the policy. I remember they
15 did it.

16 104 Q Okay.

17 A Yeah.

18 105 Q Did you ever fill in a ViCLAS book?

19 A No.

20 106 Q Okay. Uhm, how did the Vancouver City Police
21 first, like, start to advertise, like, "Hey we
22 have a missing person?" How would they get that
23 word out to people in the community?

24 A Just posters, if I remember right, around the
25 community.

DAVE DICKSON

1 107 Q And what were the -- what information was
2 contained on the posters?

3 A You know, just the date missing, you know, picture
4 of the girl usually.

5 108 Q Right.

6 A You know, and they post it up at, like, the
7 Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Services, a few
8 of the key organizations.

9 109 Q And do you find that the method was successful?

10 Did it help?

11 A For the most part.

12 110 Q Hm-hmm.

13 A You know, because, if nothing else, it would
14 generate some information. You know, like, the
15 people out there would talk about it and say, "Oh,
16 no, I just seen her, you know, last week," you
17 know.

18 111 Q And this is what -- so, my next question is, if
19 somebody comes up and says, "Hey, Dave, I just saw
20 this girl over here," do you then contact the
21 Missing Persons Unit?

22 A Yeah.

23 112 Q How would that information be relayed --

24 A I wouldn't --

25 113 Q -- to the Missing Persons Unit?

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1 A -- back then. I would have, you know, looked into
2 it myself.

3 114 Q Okay.

4 A You know, and then went up to Sandy and then
5 passed on the information to her, that, you know,
6 somebody had told me, I went and checked it out
7 and found the kid.

8 115 Q Okay.

9 A And I usually didn't rely on -- like, over the
10 years, I developed a, good or bad, you know, way
11 of doing things. You know, if I phoned another
12 jurisdiction, like, RCMP in Burnaby, or even south
13 Vancouver, where the normal procedure would be for
14 me to, to pass it off to our unit down there, --

15 116 Q Hm-hmm?

16 A -- to go knock on the door, nine out of 10 times
17 it wouldn't be done properly. So, you know, after
18 too many times of getting burnt, I just did it
19 myself. You know, I would go into Burnaby and
20 knock on the door myself, and usually find a way
21 to get in, you know, and find the kid. Because I
22 would get feedback from the, the officer that went
23 there, that they knocked on the door and told --

24 117 Q No answer?

25 A Well, no answer, or somebody came to the door and

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1 said they weren't there and they would just go
2 away, where I would go out there and get in and
3 grab the kid and, you know, take her back to the
4 group home.

5 118 Q So, would you -- was there -- you would do that
6 often? You would go to outlying jurisdictions?

7 A Not often, but occasionally.

8 119 Q Okay.

9 A You know, rather than pass it off, I would do it
10 myself.

11 120 Q Okay. Now, was there any, or did anyone ever
12 develop a database for information for --
13 containing all the information with regards to the
14 sex trade workers saying, "So, let's just start
15 keeping track of who works where and what their
16 names are and" --

17 A There used to be a secretary that worked in the
18 Vice Squad, --

19 121 Q Hm-hmm.

20 A -- you know, Diane, and I can't remember her last
21 name, but she was -- it was, like, her passion.

22 122 Q Okay.

23 A She kept track of everybody. She had files and
24 check cards. And, and if you went up there to
25 look for something, I found going to her was way

DAVE DICKSON

1 quicker and, and, you know, she had more knowledge
2 at her fingertips than actually talking to any of
3 the detectives.

4 123 Q Oh, okay.

5 A Yeah, it was, her passion was, was keeping track
6 of these women.

7 124 Q Okay.

8 A And that, when she left, I think it sort of fell
9 apart.

10 125 Q Oh, okay. And how long ago was that?

11 A That's going back 10 years or, or more.

12 126 Q Okay.

13 A I mean, they had other stuff that sort of came in
14 in its place. They had the two officers, Payette
15 and Ramos, that started the, what was it called,
16 DISC?

17 127 Q DISC?

18 A That's it.

19 128 Q Uhm, what was your understanding of Sandy
20 Cameron's role for the Missing Persons Unit?

21 A Just to record the missings.

22 129 Q Okay. So, would the -- so, if I want -- so, say
23 somebody reports a missing person, how do they go
24 about doing it to the Vancouver City Police?

25 A They would basically phone her and try and put in

DAVE DICKSON

1 a report.

2 130 Q Okay. And she would take the phone, the report

3 over the phone? So, there is no officer being

4 dispatched to the scene or conducting any

5 interviews or anything like that or --

6 A No.

7 131 Q It was just taken over the phone?

8 A Yes.

9 132 Q By Sandy?

10 A Yes.

11 133 Q Okay.

12 A And I think that's probably where a lot of the,

13 you know, the anger arose from, because she

14 probably wasn't the, the nicest person on the

15 phone.

16 134 Q Hm-hmm. You were hearing that? Did you hear that

17 firsthand from people?

18 A Well, no, I heard it, first of all, on a couple of

19 occasions from her on the phone.

20 135 Q Oh, okay.

21 A Yeah.

22 136 Q Oh, so --

23 A You know, "We don't, we don't go looking for, you

24 know, hookers in bars," and comments like that.

25 137 Q Did, did you bring that to her attention, that you

DAVE DICKSON

1 thought that the way she spoke to people was
2 inappropriate?

3 A I think so.

4 138 Q Oh, okay. You think so?

5 A Pretty sure.

6 139 Q Did anyone else? Like, did you bring it to the
7 attention of a sergeant that she was working with,
8 or a detective, so they would, as her supervisor,
9 and then say -- you weren't her supervisor. Did
10 you ever bring any --

11 A No.

12 140 Q -- inappropriate comments to the attention of a
13 supervisor?

14 A No.

15 141 Q Okay. Uhm, so, I think we've talked on this with
16 your list here. When was the first time you
17 became aware that there was a problem with sex
18 trade workers going missing?

19 A When I was looking at this original list. I, I
20 think, when I finished it, you know, I came back
21 to my area, you know, and I don't know how, you
22 know, it started, but I guess it tweaked something
23 in me and I started thinking about other people.

24 142 Q Hm-hmm. That you hadn't seen in a while?

25 A Yeah, that I hadn't seen in a while. You know,

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1 and that's sort of how it started. And, and I
2 would literally wake up in the middle of the night
3 and think about somebody else and write a name
4 down. You know, so, you know, I started making it
5 my own list --

6 143 Q Okay.

7 A -- and that's where I came up with the 31 list.

8 144 Q Okay.

9 A And over a period of time, and I can't remember
10 the timeframe, I'm, you know, bad with that, but,
11 you know, the same thing. I checked CPIC and, you
12 know, I checked a bunch of contacts, you know,
13 where, you know, St. James Social Services was one
14 organization that a lot of the girls went to, for
15 what they call a, basically a weekly allowance.
16 You know, I checked with them. I checked with the
17 hotels. My last check with that 31 list was with
18 the Ministry of Family Services, because most of
19 them are collecting Welfare cheques.

20 145 Q Hm-hmm.

21 A I think, and I can't remember now, but 95 percent
22 of them was the same answer. When, when I got the
23 computer, you know, check from the office that I
24 was using, you know, it just showed that their
25 file was closed. So, I had to go to the office to

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1 where they were actually picking up their cheque,
2 because that office had more information on their
3 computer. And when that was checked, it showed
4 why the file was closed, and in almost every
5 instance, the file was closed because the cheque
6 was sitting there, waiting, --

7 146 Q Okay.

8 A -- but never picked up.

9 147 Q Right.

10 A And that was, for me, was when, you know, you
11 know, I realized that something was, you know,
12 wrong.

13 148 Q Okay. I'm just going to grab this -- move this
14 paper again here. So, you -- to who, who did you
15 address your concerns to, that, "Hey, I think
16 there's more people going missing"?

17 A With the 31 list?

18 149 Q Yes.

19 A I think it was Inspector Gary Greer and Staff
20 Sergeant Mackay-Dunn were my immediate guys.

21 150 Q Okay. And what was their reaction? How did
22 they --

23 A They were really good. You know, they, you know,
24 they, they supported it a hundred percent. And
25 Gary Greer, I remember him saying that if there's

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1 something wrong, we have to look at it. You know,
2 and so they were very, you know, good about it.

3 151 Q And did they put it forward to other people in
4 management, to say, "Hey, we may have an issue or
5 a concern"?

6 A They, they did. They set up a meeting with a
7 number of people. Yeah, the Major Crime Squad was
8 there. The inspector, of the, you know, the MCS
9 was there and a whole bunch of people.

10 152 Q And who was that? Do you remember?

11 A At the meeting?

12 153 Q Yeah, who the people were at the meeting?

13 A Oh, the inspector at the time of the Major Crime
14 Squad was, was Inspector Biddlecombe.

15 154 Q Okay.

16 A He was there. Oh, man, there was at least 10
17 people there. My inspector, Gary Greer, was there
18 and --

19 155 Q Was Lori Shenher there at the time?

20 A I think --

21 156 Q Because what -- I'm trying to narrow a time down
22 where we were --

23 A Yeah. No, I think, yeah. No, I think Lori was
24 there, I think.

25 157 Q So she --

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1 A You know, but she was part of the Review Team
2 later, so I'm not sure if she was at that original
3 meeting because --

4 158 Q Okay.

5 A -- I'm not sure where she went. But I remember, I
6 remember Kim Rossmo was there with some RCMP
7 profiler.

8 159 Q Okay.

9 A Larry something. Contrary to popular belief, Kim
10 Rossmo was there.

11 160 Q Okay.

12 A That's about all I can remember. I mean, there
13 was a couple of other detectives, too, but I can't
14 remember their faces. And so that first meeting,
15 you know, we talked about basically what, you
16 know, what was happening, you know, and my
17 concerns.

18 161 Q Hm-hmm.

19 A And then there was comments at the table that
20 maybe they had all just moved away to other cities
21 and turned their life around.

22 162 Q Yeah, and I actually have here, a note here, in
23 November of 1998 you wrote a memo to Inspector
24 Greer and Staff Sergeant Mackay-Dunn expressing
25 concerns over a growing number of missing sex

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1 trade workers and that you were not aware of
2 anyone working on an issue or a task force. Let
3 me see if I have that memo here, just to -- here
4 it is here. Do you want to take a look at that?
5 You probably haven't seen that for a while, so.
6 A I see the timeframe is off.
7 163 Q Yes.
8 A I thought I put my original report in in '97.
9 164 Q I think in 1997 is when you were --
10 A Was it?
11 165 Q -- assigned these cases, of the 48 women to look
12 for.
13 A Yes. So, my list of 31 was attached to this.
14 Okay. I mean, I've got a lot of stuff at home and
15 I'll have to get --
16 166 Q And then, see, that was the other document I
17 presented to you, and that was entitled "Summary".
18 That was the 12th of March, 1997, that's where you
19 talked about, of the 71 people you investigated,
20 34 passed away --
21 A Oh, okay.
22 167 Q -- and that was in March of '97.
23 A Okay. That makes sense then, yeah, because I --
24 168 Q But it's not until November of '98 when you,
25 again, put it in writing and say, there is a

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1 growing -- and you were inquiring as to what's
2 going on with this. So, as a result of that memo
3 -- I'll let you finish reading.

4 A Yeah, just give me a sec here. Do you have the
5 attached list that I attached with this? Because
6 there was -- the only reason I'm asking is, there
7 was, there was two lists, when we had this
8 original meeting --

9 169 Q It's probably the, this list here, the 71.

10 A No.

11 MS. RAMORE: No.

12 THE WITNESS: My original list that I first put in was a list
13 of 31 missing women.

14 MS. EVANS:

15 170 Q Hm-hmm.

16 A And it's just more for clarification, because
17 this here refers to a list, but I'm not sure --

18 171 Q No, I don't seem to think I have that.

19 A Okay, next time -- I've got stuff --

20 MS. RAMORE: There is a list and it's written out. It's in the
21 handwriting as well.

22 THE WITNESS: Yeah, because when I put --

23 MS. EVANS:

24 172 Q Sorry?

25 A Because when we had one of our first meetings,

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1 yeah, with, you know, this room of people with the
2 inspector of Major Crime Squad, --

3 173 Q Right.

4 A -- that was to address my list of, of 31.

5 174 Q Hm-hmm.

6 A Now, there was a comment made -- and the only
7 reason I'm not sure about which list it is, there
8 was a comment made at the meeting that, we don't
9 have any crime scenes or any bodies, we're not
10 devoting any resources to this.

11 175 Q Oh, okay.

12 A So, that got my back up. And what I did is, is
13 before the next meeting, which I'm not sure of the
14 timeframe, maybe a month down the road.

15 176 Q Hm-hmm?

16 A I came, I guess, armed with a second list, you
17 know, and I've gone through the, you know, the
18 homicide files, you know, for, you know, Vancouver
19 and whatever else I could get my hands on.

20 177 Q Yes.

21 A The same comment from another inspector.
22 Actually, there was another person, inspector at
23 the table, Axel Hovbrender, the same comment from
24 him came up about, no crime scenes or no bodies,
25 you know.

DAVE DICKSON

1 178 Q Is that the first time that you heard that theme
2 or that, that explanation, as to no crime scene,
3 no bodies?

4 A Well, it was the second time. The first time was
5 the first meeting we had.

6 179 Q Okay.

7 A And I think it was Inspector Biddlecombe. The
8 second meeting was, was from Inspector Hovbrender.
9 You know, so when this second comment come up at
10 the second meeting, I pulled out a second list and
11 this list I think contained 25, you know, bodies
12 and 25 crime scenes. You know, so, you know, I
13 wasn't very popular, because that same comment
14 came up, and I said, "Well, wait a second." I
15 says, "Here is, you know, here's another list for
16 you. These are 25 women."

17 And I remember Inspector Biddlecombe getting
18 upset, you know, and saying that, "You can't say
19 they're related." I says, "Well," I says, "you
20 know, these are all Vancouver women, all taken
21 from the Downtown Eastside and murdered and dumped
22 in outlying areas." I says, "You can't tell me
23 they're not related," and I said, "They at least
24 deserve to be looked at."

25 180 Q Yeah, I don't think I see --

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1 A You know, and these were actual --

2 181 Q I don't recall seeing that memo of where you talk
3 about -- so, you do a memo that identifies 25
4 murder scenes then.

5 A Yes.

6 182 Q So, where there's actually bodies being dumped
7 somewhere?

8 A That's right. There's three --

9 MS. RAMORE: That's what seems to be attached to the memo, the
10 second page of your memo.

11 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay. Yeah, that's the original then. Yeah,
12 the 27. I thought there was 31 for some reason.
13 That was the first list.

14 MS. RAMORE: The second page.

15 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay.

16 MS. EVANS:

17 183 Q So, is this the second, when you see, when you
18 refer to this on page 2 of 3, I'm just going to
19 look for -- I have to source it just when we are
20 talking about it. This is in binder 27, 2 of 2,
21 page 102. This is where you outline where there
22 are missing unsolved homicides outside Vancouver
23 that, where you say there is dumped bodies, dumped
24 in Chilliwack, Richmond, North Van. So, is this
25 the memo you talk about that --

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1 A Yeah, I think this is the second one, yeah, that I
2 put in as a result of that comment.

3 184 Q Okay. And this is because you heard the comment,
4 "They're not going to do anything until I have a
5 body." So you're going to try and find --

6 A Yeah.

7 185 Q So, you went and investigated and found some cases
8 where, okay, here we have examples where women
9 went missing from the Downtown Eastside and we
10 have their bodies.

11 A Yeah, that was my, you know -- I mean, you know, I
12 didn't hear the comment that "we're not going to
13 do anything," but that was the impression I got,
14 is, you know, they're not, they're not going to
15 devote any resources because there's no crime
16 scenes, there's no bodies.

17 186 Q Right.

18 A And so that's when I went through their files and
19 dug up that second list.

20 187 Q Okay.

21 A And that first list, like I say, the first list
22 was 31, if I remember right, and we found four.
23 You know, two had passed away and two were still
24 alive.

25 188 Q Yeah. And that was from the 1997?

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1 A No, no, not that --

2 189 Q No? That's a different one?

3 A Yeah, that's a different one.

4 190 Q Oh, okay.

5 A Like that one, when I finished that one, you know,

6 the next year, I came up with my original list

7 which I, you know, you know, felt was, you know,

8 valid, you know, a bunch of missings, and I, I

9 thought there was 31 on that. I'll have to dig it

10 out from home. I've got everything scattered, but

11 -- and then this second list that I think is that

12 one, --

13 191 Q Okay.

14 A -- is the one that I made because of a comment.

15 So, I actually presented two lists, you know,

16 apart from that one.

17 192 Q And then -- well, obviously, this meeting was held

18 so people were recognizing at this time, that

19 there was a concern with missing women; is that

20 correct?

21 A Well, that was, you know, sort of the, the gist of

22 the meeting, was to make people recognize it, but

23 some of them weren't really, you know, gung-ho on

24 accepting it.

25 193 Q Okay. And who was that?

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1 A I think the inspector in charge of the Major Crime
2 Squad. He was the one that made the comment about
3 not devoting any resources and --

4 194 Q Okay. And that, at that time, was?

5 A Inspector Biddlecombe.

6 195 Q Biddlecombe?

7 A Yes.

8 196 Q Okay. So, after that meeting happened, do you
9 know what occurred as a result of you providing
10 the list with, with the bodies?

11 A Well, I think we had the, the first meeting, and
12 then the second meeting where I provided the
13 second list.

14 197 Q Okay.

15 A After that, I can't remember another meeting.

16 198 Q Okay.

17 A It seemed to stall.

18 199 Q Were you aware that Lori Shenher was in -- she was
19 in the Missing Persons Unit at the time, that she
20 was investigating or doing any inquiries for --

21 A I can't remember what she was doing at the time.
22 I remember her being part of the Review Team.

23 200 Q Okay.

24 A And I'm not sure if she was in the Missing Persons
25 Unit at the time.

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1 201 Q And what's your understanding of the Review Team
2 versus working in the Missing Persons Unit? Like,
3 you seemed to think they are two separate things.
4 Are they two separate --

5 A Well, they were, and I think the only reason a
6 Review Team got put together, because somebody
7 took my list of 31 --

8 202 Q Hm-hmm?

9 A -- and leaked it to Global News.

10 203 Q Okay.

11 A As a result of that, I, I guess, you know, the
12 term "the shit hit the fan" is probably the most
13 appropriate.

14 204 Q And do you know who leaked that?

15 A I do.

16 205 Q Okay.

17 A You know, so, as a result of that, you know, they
18 put together the Review Team.

19 206 Q So, did you leak the list out to the media, so the
20 police would act upon it?

21 A I did.

22 207 Q Okay. And did you -- were you accused of that by
23 the police? Did they do an investigation into
24 the, into the media leak at that time?

25 A No, not to my knowledge. I mean --

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1 208 Q Okay.

2 A I, I wasn't directly accused but, you know,

3 Inspector Biddlecombe said at the meeting.

4 209 Q Yeah, I recall reading something like that, that

5 they thought that it was you who had --

6 A Yeah, he assumed it was.

7 210 Q Okay.

8 A He didn't point any fingers, but he looked at me

9 when he made the comment.

10 211 Q So, you didn't face any discipline or internal

11 review --

12 A Nobody --

13 212 Q -- as a result of that?

14 A Nobody really accused me of doing it and nobody

15 ever asked me if I did it.

16 213 Q Oh, okay. So, the --

17 A And you're the first person I told.

18 214 Q So the, so the media then are, become aware of it.

19 So then it becomes a big story. Does it become a

20 big story?

21 A Yes, it does.

22 215 Q And what happened?

23 A So, as a result --

24 216 Q And then what happens from there?

25 A Well, as a result of that, they put together the

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1 Review Team. And that's where Lori Shenher was,
2 was, you know, sort of seconded or transferred.
3 And they had an office in the back of the Major
4 Crime Squad office.

5 217 Q Hm-hmm.

6 A Lori Shenher. There was a secretary, Dorothy, you
7 know, that was assigned to do the, you know, the
8 computer stuff.

9 218 Q Right.

10 A The sergeant was Geramy Field.

11 219 Q Hm-hmm.

12 A I am sure there was couple of other people there.
13 I can --

14 220 Q And did they spend a lot of time in the Downtown
15 Eastside? Did you get to know them more because
16 of their tasks at looking at the missing women?

17 A Well, I knew Lori Shenher already and she was
18 always -- and actually, she was with the, the
19 Strike Force before that.

20 221 Q Oh, okay.

21 A Yeah. But I mean, she was an awesome person,
22 compassionate, and, you know, she was sort of the,
23 I guess the coordinator of the unit.

24 222 Q Right.

25 A And the unit, as I say, it was very small. I

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1 think there was four people working in it.

2 223 Q Okay.

3 A You know, there was two homicide detectives, Ron

4 Lepine and Mark Chernoff, that were assigned to

5 assist, --

6 224 Q Yes.

7 A -- time permitting.

8 225 Q Hm-hmm.

9 A You know, so there was only four or five people.

10 I was -- I'm trying to remember. Like, I offered

11 my assistance and I met with them. And then I

12 think a week later, I got a, a memo, you know,

13 saying that I was transferred to the unit.

14 226 Q Okay. And how long were you transferred there

15 for?

16 A Only about a day. What happened is, I went up

17 there and I had said, like, my duties as the

18 Downtown Eastside liaison officer, you know, I

19 go -- you know, I'm busy all the time. You know,

20 so I tried to explain that to my staff sergeant.

21 And my staff sergeant actually, Mackay-Dunn, said,

22 "no, no", he says, "you're just there to assist."

23 But then, all of a sudden, I found out they had a

24 change somewhere, you know, and I was assigned

25 full time. And I, and I tried to explain to the

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1 sergeant there, "I've got a lot of other duties
2 that I can't just drop," and she basically said,
3 "Too bad. You know, go tell your Safety Office
4 that you are no longer available."

5 227 Q Hm-hmm. Well, didn't you think this was a
6 priority at the time then?

7 A I was still working on it, even on the Safety
8 Office. I didn't -- part of my, you know, my
9 priority was, was the Downtown Eastside, the
10 women.

11 228 Q Right.

12 A And I could still do that and assist, you know.
13 So, my feeling was, I could still assist the
14 Review Team and probably better being out on the
15 street.

16 229 Q But, yeah, and saying that, but aren't -- didn't
17 you recognize the talents that you would provide,
18 the knowledge and the background, if you were
19 brought into the Review Team to look at these
20 missing women?

21 A Yeah, no, you know, I offered that.

22 230 Q Okay.

23 A There was no problem with me doing that.

24 231 Q Okay.

25 A You know, but I had --

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1 232 Q But did you disagree with the sergeant saying you
2 have to remove yourself from the Safety Office and
3 focus more on the missing women?
4 A I did. Because I was already focusing on the
5 missing women.
6 233 Q And were people from the Review Team down working
7 in the Downtown Eastside trying to find the women
8 as well?
9 A Not really. I mean, Lori Shenher, if there was a
10 tip that came in, you know, she would give it to
11 myself or, or the two detectives that were working
12 out of there.
13 234 Q Okay.
14 A You know, and they would, you know, actively go
15 out and, and look into it.
16 235 Q So, Lori's role was more to organize the files and
17 create tasks --
18 A Yes.
19 236 Q -- to give people to do?
20 A (No verbal response)
21 237 Q Okay. So, can you describe the information
22 sharing that went on within the police service
23 about the missing women investigation? Like, how
24 were patrol officers notified that there was an
25 issue or criminal investigators, or anything like

DAVE DICKSON

1 that? How did that go about?

2 A I think there was memos sent out to everybody that
3 the Review Team wanted any, you know, any
4 information basically, you know, regarding the
5 working, you know, women.

6 238 Q Okay.

7 A Any people picking them up, bad dates, you know.
8 And that was another thing, one of the
9 organizations always provided a list of bad dates.
10 You know, that has been going on for 20 years.
11 One of the organizations runs a bad date sheet
12 where the women will fill out partial plate
13 numbers, vehicle descriptions, you know, and they
14 put that out for, almost on a nightly basis for
15 the women. So, we had access to them. You know,
16 so all the stuff would come into the Review Team.

17 239 Q And did that bad date list ever result in any
18 arrests?

19 A It, it has. Yeah, it has been very valuable.

20 240 Q Okay.

21 A Because, I mean, it will -- you will piece -- you
22 get a bad date sheet from a woman that only gets a
23 couple of the licence plate numbers.

24 241 Q Hm-hmm.

25 A You know, but you will get a description of a

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1 vehicle, a description of the guy. And sometimes,
2 a month later, somebody else will get the same
3 description of guy and vehicle, but the last two
4 numbers of the plate. So, it was really valuable
5 information.

6 242 Q Okay.

7 A And the thing with the Review Team, you know, I
8 did what the sergeant had asked me. I went back
9 and told my office --

10 243 Q Right.

11 A -- you know, that I was no longer available. And
12 Deb Mearns hit the roof and, you know, you know,
13 had a meeting with the inspector and it was called
14 off within about two days, you know, and I was
15 back in the Safety Office.

16 244 Q So, I'm, I'm confused to that because, really,
17 because you're the one who says, "Hey, we've got a
18 real issue with missing women here in the Downtown
19 Eastside." So, they know that you are the go-to
20 guy. You are the one who probably knows the
21 community even better than anyone. So, if I was
22 the leader, I would say, "Hey, I want to get Dave
23 Dickson here working on my Review Team." But do
24 you --

25 A I was working on the Review Team, yeah. And I

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1 could do both.

2 245 Q Okay.

3 A But it was more valuable for me, you know, to be
4 out there, you know, talking to the women, because
5 the women won't talk to a lot of police
6 officers --

7 246 Q No.

8 A -- for a whole bunch of reasons. You know, so, I
9 felt I was much more valuable, you know, doing
10 both roles. And any time, you know, I was willing
11 to devote any time they wanted, --

12 247 Q Okay.

13 A -- you know, to the Review Team.

14 248 Q Were you ever assigned a task to interview any of
15 the persons of interest or any suspects in, with
16 regard to the missing women investigations?

17 A No, that was more the detectives' --

18 249 Q Okay.

19 A -- role. I mean, one incident where I was working
20 on a new missing, you know, the sergeant
21 approached me and asked me what I was doing, and I
22 told her, I said, "I've got a name that I'm
23 looking into." And her comment was, you know, she
24 told me not to. You know, because she says,
25 "We're focusing on the 31. We don't want any new

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1 missings."

2 And I tried to explain. I felt it was
3 important, because how do you get a really clear
4 picture of what's going on if you don't have, you
5 know, like, all the information. And the 32nd
6 one, if I found another one, all of a sudden, that
7 may just give me the key that pulls everything
8 together, you know, so. But she wasn't interested
9 in that.

10 250 Q And who was that?

11 A Sergeant Geramy Field.

12 251 Q Okay. So, did you stop then looking for that
13 missing?

14 A No.

15 252 Q Or did you just continue doing it?

16 A I continued doing it.

17 253 Q And did that person end up being a missing person
18 or did you find them?

19 A I think I found them.

20 254 Q Okay. When was the first time that Robert
21 Pickton's name came to your attention and in what
22 context did it come to your attention?

23 A He was on our list. We had one of our detectives
24 Paul Byram (phonetics), was assigned to pull I
25 think any old file or report, you know, where any

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1 women, regardless whether a sex trade worker or
2 not, was attacked. You know, so he went into the
3 archives and started pulling old reports, and
4 that's how we come up, you know, with Willie
5 Pickton. He was on our board with probably a
6 hundred other names, you know. And his is in
7 with, you know, a young girl that I have known
8 since she was 15 down there, you know, Anderson.

9 255 Q Okay.

10 A You know. And that was I think in '95 when she
11 went out there with him. So, that was why he was
12 on our list. You know, Anderson went out there and
13 I'm not sure if you have, if you've seen the file.

14 256 Q Yeah, I do have that. Yes. I'm trying not to say
15 her last name so at least we can keep that --

16 A Yes.

17 257 Q -- confidential.

18 A So, that was the reason he --

19 258 Q That was the 1997 --

20 A Okay.

21 259 Q -- assault.

22 A Well, that's the reason he come up.

23 260 Q Okay.

24 A And then other people that we had up on the list,
25 you know, were similar circumstances and, and, in

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1 fact, some guys that actually killed women.

2 261 Q Hm-hmm.

3 A You know, and so they were up on the list. And

4 Paul's task was finding, you know, files and

5 information, or not information, but evidence. I

6 mean, the police garage we have on Alexander, he

7 would find a bag in the middle of the garage with

8 old, you know, evidence in it, you know. I mean,

9 if it went to court, the continuity would be, you

10 know, interesting. You know, but that was his

11 task.

12 262 Q So, Pickton comes to a name, you say he's one of

13 many suspects. Do you ever have contact with

14 Robert Pickton yourself, or Willie Pickton

15 yourself?

16 A No.

17 263 Q Had you ever come across him in the Downtown

18 Eastside?

19 A No.

20 264 Q When you, when -- you know, even later on, in

21 2002, when he gets arrested, you see his photo

22 everywhere. Do you then go, "Oh, I used to see

23 him a lot"?

24 A No.

25 265 Q Not at all?

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1 A Very surprising, because I'm -- I was down there
2 all the time.

3 266 Q And at some point, Pickton's photo is in a photo
4 line-up and is shown to women on the Downtown
5 Eastside. Were you ever involved in showing his
6 photo line-up to women in the Downtown Eastside?

7 A I don't think I was.

8 267 Q Okay. Because, as I say, that was my next
9 question. Were you aware that his photo was shown
10 down, in the Downtown Eastside?

11 A I think so, yeah.

12 268 Q Okay. So, if I said to you that I have
13 information that his photo was shown to
14 approximately 80 sex trade workers in the Downtown
15 Eastside back in, you know, the 1990s, uhm, well
16 before his arrest, and none of these women picked
17 him out or identified him as a person who is down
18 in the Downtown Eastside, but later on, when he
19 was arrested and it all came out, they were like,
20 "Oh, yeah, he was down here a lot." Why is it
21 that they wouldn't have come forward and told the
22 police that?

23 A A number of different reasons. The women are, you
24 know, very -- it's not really protective, but it's
25 similar. Because one woman in particular, that

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1 has passed away now, she had been out there a
2 number of times. You know, she could phone him up
3 and he would come down and pick her up and take
4 her back to the farm, and, and for three days, all
5 the drugs, you know, and all the booze that she
6 wanted, you know. And then at the end of the
7 three days, he would drop her back off on the
8 Downtown Eastside and give her a couple of hundred
9 dollars.

10 269 Q Hm-hmm.

11 A You know, she could do that on a weekly basis, and
12 she said he never touched her once. No sex.

13 270 Q Right.

14 A She would --

15 271 Q He was a good date then?

16 A She would not -- yeah. She would not give him up
17 for any reason. Even, and that sounds really
18 cold, but even if they knew what was going on, and
19 there were some women that knew what was going on,
20 but it's, and it's really difficult to understand
21 unless you really work with them a lot and spend a
22 lot of time down there. If, if I'm a, you know,
23 I've had such a horrible life and one of his close
24 women that was with him, you know, I will use her
25 for an example, without mentioning her name,

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1 because she was in the truck apparently a lot of
2 times with him --

3 272 Q Okay.

4 A -- and would come down on drugs for him.

5 273 Q Okay.

6 A Girls would just jump in, and who wouldn't.

7 274 Q Right.

8 A You know, if I'm a heavy user and I'm looking at a
9 bag of crack cocaine and, you know, money and
10 offers of, you know, whatever, I will be in the
11 truck in a second. I don't care where I'm going.
12 And my life is so miserable, I go out there and
13 know what's going on, you know, but it doesn't
14 involve me. It's not about wanting to do the
15 right thing. It's about my addiction and my
16 horrible, horrible existence. If I don't have to
17 work out and stand out on the street and, and do
18 that, I've got some guy that's giving me money --
19 and some of the documentary they showed and some
20 of the evidence of a couple of the women that were
21 on the farm, that's the setup they had. They had
22 a source of drugs, a source of money. You know,
23 it relieved them from doing, you know, dates and
24 doing a whole bunch of bad stuff. So, it's -- it
25 wasn't about protecting him. It was just about

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1 their, you know, not having to do disgusting
2 things themselves, and so they're not going to
3 give him up.

4 275 Q Right.

5 A And that sounds really cold but, I mean, it's just
6 a reality, you know.

7 276 Q And do you think the police would have thought
8 back then that, "Hey, we shouldn't be looking at
9 bad dates, we should look at good dates," like?

10 A I think that was mentioned. I mean, you know, we
11 -- it just wasn't bad dates, and I think they
12 focused on everybody because we had -- you know,
13 we've got businessmen that go down there and pick
14 up girls, and some of them are, you know, as bad a
15 date as anybody.

16 277 Q Right.

17 A You know, so, I mean, it wasn't -- we didn't focus
18 on just bad dates. I think we looked at
19 everything.

20 278 Q Okay.

21 A That was the consensus anyway.

22 279 Q Okay. So, did you think when the Review Team
23 started, and the posters were being created, so,
24 I'm talking the late '90s and the early 2000s, did
25 you think there were things that weren't being

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1 done by the Missing Women Review Team, that you
2 felt critical of them, or is there anything that
3 you said, "Hey, what" -- I know you, you actually
4 weren't directly involved in the unit, but did you
5 feel any sense of frustration at any point, that
6 your, that things weren't being done enough?

7 A Not really. I mean, you know, I defend the
8 Department in certain areas. And, and in this
9 sort of investigation, it's probably, and I still
10 do talks about this to different colleges and, you
11 know, it's one of the most difficult
12 investigations, because you've got women that jump
13 into cars 30 times a day, and the 31st time they
14 don't come back, I mean, and nobody notices?

15 I mean, I've still got the original poster
16 that I take with me when I do talks. And, I mean,
17 the important information is, you know, like, the
18 face, the name, but then the date reported missing
19 and the date last seen, I mean, there's, like, two
20 years.

21 280 Q Yeah.

22 A So, nobody noticed they were gone, you know. So,
23 I mean, it's a really difficult, you know, you
24 know, thing to find somebody that just drops off
25 the face of the earth, you know. So, you know, I

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1 defend the Department in certain cases.

2 Well, what it boiled down to me, for me, was
3 more personal attitudes, and some of the tips
4 probably could have been handled better. I mean,
5 there was one tip that came in that I remember
6 from, no, it doesn't matter who phoned it in, but
7 it came in about a woman seeing a body or
8 something hanging, you know, in the back of the
9 trailer.

10 281 Q Hm-hmm.

11 A And, and she'd also seen women's ID. You know,
12 and if I remember right, she was struggling with
13 that, but she went and told her boyfriend on the
14 Island. The boyfriend had to do the right thing
15 and phoned the, phoned it into the police. You
16 know, so I remember. And as I say, I was involved
17 with the Review Team. I was up there every
18 morning and every day, you know, and so it wasn't
19 that I wasn't sort of involved.

20 You know, but this tip came in and they
21 assigned a detective to go investigate the tip to
22 talk to the woman. When he came back the next
23 morning, and I, I can't remember if she was on the
24 Island or she was local but, you know, when he
25 came back to the morning meeting -- and I won't

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1 mention his name, because it doesn't matter -- you
2 know, he was asked by the sergeant how it went,
3 and he said she basically recanted everything,
4 denied seeing any body, denied seeing any ID or
5 anything. You know, and then his next comment was
6 that she was just an unreliable crack ho. You
7 know, and I thought to myself, if you walked into
8 that room with that attitude, she picked up on it
9 right away and the interview was over before it
10 started.

11 282 Q Hm-hmm.

12 A So, that's the kind of stuff that I think was, was
13 probably key.

14 283 Q Were you familiar with that, that one woman, that
15 you would have known to make contact and reach
16 out? Did anyone ever -- you -- we won't mention
17 her name, but did you hear her name back then and
18 say, "Okay I am familiar with her," or did you
19 have any knowledge of that woman?

20 A I, I had heard the name before, but --

21 284 Q Okay, you didn't know?

22 A -- had I gone into the room, you know, it would
23 have been different, yes.

24 285 Q Okay. And did you ever suggest that to the team
25 when you were doing the meeting, saying, "Hey,

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1 let's just try a different approach and why don't
2 you give me an opportunity and I will meet with
3 her"?

4 A No. The politics back then was, you know, and
5 with senior management and, and, you know, it was
6 quite different.

7 286 Q How so? Like --

8 A Well, it's just, I mean, like, there was two
9 officers, for example, parachuted into the Review
10 Team.

11 287 Q Hm-hmm.

12 A Because they had gone above the sergeant's head,
13 you know, and convinced the, I think it was one of
14 the inspectors at the time, or a superintendent,
15 that they knew who it was. You know, so they were
16 literally just, without any consultation with the
17 Review Team or the people that were running it,
18 were just plunked into it.

19 288 Q Right.

20 A And they, from the day one, they had their own
21 agenda.

22 289 Q And what was that?

23 A Just to look at this guy. They weren't, you know,
24 ready to take any other tips, you know, from Lori
25 Shenher. You know, so there was a bit of a, you

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1 know, a bit of, you know, a bit of tension as a
2 result of that. They came in there to work on
3 this one person and that was it.

4 290 Q And did they end up getting that one person?

5 A They did, but he was never a suspect, I don't
6 think, on any murders. I mean, he was, you know,
7 he was guilty of some sexual assaults and --

8 291 Q Okay.

9 A -- and that was my feeling about the guy, you
10 know, and I voiced that at a couple of meetings
11 talking about him. All of his patterns just
12 showed certain things he never crossed the line.

13 292 Q Yes.

14 A He was a bad, bad man --

15 293 Q Right.

16 A -- but, you know, he wasn't responsible for, you
17 know, for any murders.

18 294 Q Okay.

19 A You know, but that's what I mean about the
20 politics. And, you know, senior detectives and
21 senior management, you just didn't, you know,
22 suggest to them that a lowly constable would go
23 out and do something and, you know.

24 295 Q Okay. Can you describe for me, what are some of
25 the things that complicated the search for these

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1 women?

2 A Just mostly the lack of, of, you know, witnesses
3 or information. I mean, you know, when it come up
4 where people would criticize the Department for
5 saying, if it was 50 secretaries, you would have
6 done something differently. But, you know, you
7 can't compare 'em, because, you know, you have a
8 crime scene, a witness. You have a whole bunch of
9 things that kick in. You know, with these women,
10 you really didn't, you know, have anything. You
11 know, they had no hotel where they were staying
12 at. Most of them were on the street. And the
13 bottom line was, you know, they, they really, you
14 know, just dropped off the face of the earth and
15 nobody noticed they were gone. You know, so you
16 have to pick up a trail two years later and, you
17 know. I mean, he, you know, he had the perfect
18 place. He had the perfect victim. I mean,
19 everything just fell into place for him,
20 unfortunately.

21 296 Q Uhm, and I think that's been said in the media,
22 that if anyone else had gone missing, other than
23 sex trade workers, maybe some -- the police
24 department would have acted upon it quicker. Do
25 you think that -- what was the biggest hurdle in

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1 the search for them? Was it, was it the fact that
2 there was such a delay in reporting them missing?

3 A Well, partly that, and just their life-styles.
4 And then, you know, the media wasn't very helpful
5 because if, if -- and when I do talks to certain
6 organizations, I will use -- I'm trying to think
7 time -- it doesn't matter timeframe. Ten years
8 ago, there was a young lady from Surrey that went
9 missing. She worked in a tanning salon. A
10 beautiful young lady. The boss went for lunch,
11 came back, you know, and she was gone. The door
12 was open. Her purse was on the desk. Within an
13 hour, her, her beautiful face was plastered all
14 over the news. You know, the family was, you
15 know, was involved. There was, you know,
16 everything. Within I think an hour after that,
17 they found her bank card had been used. And I
18 still remember his name, isn't that funny. Her
19 bank card had been used. And they tracked him
20 through the canyon and they found her body over
21 the canyon. This Norman Ojai (phonetics), you
22 know, he had murdered her.

23 But the difference was, you know, a beautiful
24 woman, family involvement. You know, it hit the
25 media. Within an hour, her face was plastered all

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1 over the news. You know, with these women, none
2 of that happened. You know, we would try and get
3 the media to run with the, say, a new missing,
4 they weren't interested, because it was only one
5 person, you know.

6 And even with the initial, you know, missing
7 women's list, you know, the press wanted to, to
8 label it a serial killer. You know, and I got
9 questioned on a number of occasions and I said,
10 "You can't say it's a serial killer. Like, we
11 don't have -- even though we have a bunch of
12 missings, we can't say they're dead." So, I mean,
13 I'm not prepared to label it a serial killer like
14 some other people are. You know, we just don't
15 know.

16 There was rumours about the women were being
17 held and used in snuff films, they were being used
18 and held as a whole bunch of different things, you
19 know. So, you know, until you know, you can't
20 really say what's happening. But that was the
21 difference, the media was not very helpful unless
22 it was something sensational.

23 297 Q Okay.

24 A You know, but to try and get them, and we asked,
25 you know, if they would run with one picture --

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1 298 Q Hm-hmm.

2 A -- and they refused.

3 299 Q Okay. Are there any other roadblocks that you

4 encountered? Like, you say the media obviously

5 you felt were a roadblock. Was there anything

6 else that you felt was a roadblock?

7 A Just the lifestyle for, you know, for certain. I

8 mean, you know, they're, they're transient to some

9 degree, because they would go to Surrey, New West.

10 If they had a warrant done in Vancouver, they

11 would move out to Surrey. Because Surrey has got

12 it's own little, you know, that's like a 45-minute

13 drive from Vancouver, and it's got their own

14 little Downtown Eastside --

15 300 Q Hm-hmm.

16 A -- on the King George Highway strip. So, if they

17 had a warrant down here or if they owed money to a

18 drug dealer, they would move out there. So, you

19 know, they would just sort of bounce around, you

20 know, and they would eventually come back and they

21 wouldn't go too far. But that was a, a big

22 hurdle.

23 301 Q So, that adds to the theory that they were a bit

24 transient then?

25 A Well, a little bit, yeah. They would, you know,

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1 they would go out to Surrey, but within a half an
2 hour, you know, of Vancouver. But they would
3 still get checked out there.

4 302 Q Okay.

5 A You know, and then the lack of family sort of
6 involvement. You know, there is nobody you could
7 phone up in the family and say, "What's the last
8 time, you know, you talked to your daughter,"
9 because, in most cases, it was years.

10 303 Q Okay.

11 A Or certainly a long time.

12 304 Q Okay. Can you tell me what you know about Wayne
13 Leng? Do you know that name?

14 A Yeah. No, I know him very well. He's just a date
15 that used to date Sarah de Vries, you know.

16 305 Q Did you ever have contact with him down in the
17 Downtown Eastside?

18 A Yes. Yeah, he went, he went from being fixated on
19 Sarah, you know, and when I say that, that's all
20 he was. You know, to Sarah, he was just a date,
21 you know. I talked to Sarah about it, you know,
22 that, you know, he would pay her to, you know, for
23 her to do things to him. But he became, like a
24 lot of guys down there, fixated with Sarah, like
25 he was going to be her saviour and he was madly in

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1 love with her.

2 306 Q Hm-hmm.

3 A But when she went missing, his fixation got

4 switched to the, the investigation. You know, and

5 eventually he got run out of town by one of our --

6 proper term -- Jamie Hamilton. She's, you know,

7 she's sort of a long-time activist down here. You

8 know, but she had an involvement with Wayne Leng,

9 you know, and knew what he was and, you know, dug

10 up on some dirt on him and sort of run him out of

11 town.

12 307 Q Okay.

13 A That's all he is, is a date.

14 308 Q Okay. I understand you attended a meeting that

15 the Vancouver City Police had with the families.

16 I believe that was in October of '98. Do you know

17 whose idea was it to hold the meeting with the

18 family members?

19 A No, I don't remember. It was above me.

20 309 Q Okay. And do you remember attending that meeting?

21 A I do.

22 310 Q Okay. And do you remember any of the ideas about

23 what was discussed at the meeting?

24 A I don't.

25 311 Q Okay.

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1 A There were a lot of upset families.

2 312 Q And what were they upset about?

3 A Just, you know, the lack of police, I guess, not

4 involvement but, you know, compassion. You know,

5 "It's all your fault," you know.

6 313 Q And why were the police being blamed?

7 A Well, because, you know, I am assuming that some

8 of them had tried to report some of them missing,

9 and this is just an assumption on my part, and

10 didn't get a, you know, a favourable sort of, you

11 know, reception.

12 314 Q Okay. Okay.

13 A But it's really, it's really common for -- I'm

14 trying to remember some of the faces around there.

15 Some of the, you know, the mothers, you know,

16 single mothers, you know, who had a history

17 themselves, you know, some of the mothers, were,

18 were quite severe alcoholics, you know, and that's

19 why their daughters were out there. But now

20 they're, they're sober, and this is quite common

21 down here, I can name a hundred of people in the

22 same situation. Now they're sober and they have

23 been sober for 10 years, and now, all of a sudden,

24 it's everybody else's fault as to the fact that

25 their daughter is out there.

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1 315 Q Okay.

2 A You know, so, that's really quite a common thing

3 down here. And, you know, but they're very angry,

4 you know, and point fingers at everybody, "You

5 never saved my daughter." Well. . .

6 316 Q Okay. I don't know what year it was. Was it

7 1999, I think you attended this site, and where

8 you took a day off and you went out to the site

9 where Mary Lidguerre's bones had been located.

10 A I did.

11 317 Q Do you recall that? And I guess, at some point,

12 there was a report made to the RCMP. Can you tell

13 me more about how you end up just going, was it up

14 to Mount Seymour, and walking around and --

15 A I'm not sure who organized that. The native

16 liaison, Freda Enns, used to be the director

17 there, and we went up and basically had a

18 memorial, you know, for Mary.

19 318 Q Okay.

20 A I think that's what it was. And I can't remember

21 if I went up there again. I think I did, on my

22 own.

23 319 Q Okay. I'm trying to find a date here for it.

24 Yeah, it was May 21st, 1999, you took the day off

25 and you went up to Mount Seymour regarding the

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1 Mary Lidguerre. And then June 2nd, you went back
2 two days, or a few, a week later or so, with Lori
3 Shenher and Mark Chernoff. Why did you do that?
4 Do you remember why you ended up taking Lori and
5 Mark back to the scene?

6 A No, I can't remember why we went up there.

7 320 Q Okay.

8 A The first one was for the memorial. You know,
9 there was probably a half a dozen people there or
10 more.

11 321 Q Okay.

12 A You know, they had, like, a smudging and, you
13 know.

14 322 Q Mona Wilson was one of the, the missing women.
15 And I see in one of your notebooks, in your
16 logbooks, you talk about the -- you made a note
17 that:

18 Mona Wilson was last seen getting into a
19 white, long box van, being driven by a male,
20 white, 55 to 60 years.

21 This is in your notebook. So, how would you
22 go about transferring information you receive on
23 the street in your notebook? How would you go and
24 then get that into the missing person file or
25 their log for that investigation? How do you go

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1 about transferring that information, so everyone
2 has it?

3 A Good question. I think it went on the computer, I
4 think. You know, I'd put it on paper and it would
5 go into Dorothy --

6 323 Q Okay.

7 A -- and get submitted and put on the computer.

8 324 Q Okay.

9 A Mona -- let's see. I still see her boyfriend on a
10 regular basis. Every time I see him, I want to
11 pound him.

12 325 Q On May 25th, I think that's when you were
13 transferred. In 1999, you get transferred into
14 the Missing Women Review Team. So, I was going to
15 ask you, who was in charge and what direction were
16 you given and what leads were you going to be
17 following up on. But you were only there for a
18 few days, were you?

19 A Yeah. The original memo I got from my staff
20 sergeant, you know, it was an MOU, which I had
21 never heard that term before. I had to go ask him
22 what an MOU was and he says --

23 326 Q Hm-hmm, memorandum of understanding?

24 A Yeah, I had never -- but he said, "No, no, you're
25 not transferred up there." He said, "Just go up

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1 there and talk to the sergeant and work out, you
2 know, whatever time you can spend and assist."

3 327 Q Right.

4 A And, and I said, "No, no, that's great." So, I
5 went up there and that changed over the next two
6 days, for some reason. So, I'm not sure who
7 Geramy talked to or how it came about.

8 328 Q Right.

9 A You know, and I was told that I would be there,
10 you know, show up there in plainclothes, you know,
11 and work there in whatever direction they, you
12 know, they decided.

13 329 Q Right.

14 A And so I went back and told my Safety Office and
15 then, I'm not sure what she did but, you know,
16 ended up meeting with my inspector, Chris Beach,
17 and it got turned over. I think the next day.

18 330 Q Okay. So, you weren't given any tasks then,
19 really, because people were fighting over you to
20 figure out where you would be --

21 A Well, I was still -- you know, I was still
22 advised, Lori Shenher says, you know, to follow up
23 tips. I didn't have a problem doing that.

24 331 Q Okay.

25 A You know, even though, like I say, I was, I was

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1 available to the Safety Office, you know, --

2 332 Q Right.

3 A -- the majority of my time was spent with the

4 Review Team stuff.

5 333 Q And did you get tasks and tips from Lori Shenher

6 that you had to follow up and you were responsible

7 for following up?

8 A Yes.

9 334 Q And then how would you relay that information back

10 to her and the team?

11 A On paper. I would put it on paper for them, you

12 know, tip number so and so resolved --

13 335 Q Okay.

14 A -- and did that.

15 336 Q So, there is a memo from Staff Sergeant

16 Mackay-Dunn to Inspector Biddlecombe on the 23rd

17 of January, 1999, and the memo talks basically

18 about the fact that you had attended up to the,

19 back up to, and you talked about the Mount

20 Seymour, where they identified the bones of Mary

21 Lidguerre, and she had gone missing a few years

22 before that. And I guess the -- you had contacted

23 the Mounties about -- or the civilians had

24 contacted the Mounties about bones being located.

25 And I guess you were making inquiries as to DNA

DAVE DICKSON

1 could possibly link the bones to the identified
2 body, or the identified body parts of Mary
3 Lidguerre. Do you, do you recall anything like
4 that?

5 A I recall finding out when they identified her,
6 that it was actually done by mistake, the Mountie
7 putting something into the computer. You know,
8 and this is I think a year after she went missing.
9 He, he, he put something, and when it came to the
10 section whether it was male or female, he punched
11 the wrong number and it came back as a match, you
12 know, for the bones he was trying to match up
13 with.

14 337 Q Okay.

15 A And he realized he made a mistake, but then, all
16 of a sudden, he thought, well, wait a second. It
17 didn't make sense. And so, luckily, his mistake
18 matched the bones.

19 338 Q Oh, I see.

20 A It turned out that Helene Tollages (phonetics) had
21 identified the bones, had incorrectly identified
22 him as a 40-year-old white male.

23 339 Q Hm-hmm.

24 A You know. So, if it hadn't been for that
25 Mountie's mistake, you know, punching the wrong

DAVE DICKSON

1 button, you know, she still wouldn't be
2 identified.

3 340 Q Oh, okay.

4 A So, that's sort of how it came -- but there was
5 something else I remember a while later about some
6 more bones or something. Because I'm not sure
7 what they found of her, because, I mean, the bears
8 get into everything up there, and yeah, tracking
9 all over the bushes. But there was something
10 else, I think a year later, about some bones --

11 341 Q Okay.

12 A -- that somebody said. I think it came to the, to
13 this Native Liaison Society, Freda Enns, --

14 342 Q Right.

15 A -- you know, that somebody made a comment and it
16 didn't make sense to me. So, I tried to clarify
17 it, and I don't think -- I can't remember if I
18 ever heard back.

19 343 Q Okay. Okay, on the 10th of August, 2001 -- so,
20 Robert Pickton is arrested in February of 2002.
21 But on the 10th of August, 2001, you apparently
22 attended the Sex Assault Squad and spoke to
23 someone there with regards to Pickton as a
24 suspect. Do you recall that?

25 A No.

DAVE DICKSON

1 344 Q Jim Scott, are you familiar with Jim Scott?

2 A I am I think. I'm trying to get a face.

3 345 Q It just --

4 A Yeah, yeah.

5 346 Q He, he's written an e-mail here, and one of the
6 documents I have, it's from Jim Scott, and it's
7 dated February 8th, 2002, the e-mail is. But he's
8 saying:

9 On the 10th of August, 2001, Constable Dave
10 Dickson attended the sex assault office and
11 informed Detective Constable Scott [so,
12 himself] of his concerns for Willie Pickton
13 as a suspect in the murder of the missing
14 women. Constable Dave Dickson gave
15 information and was not sure of the outcome
16 of this investigation.

17 So, do you recall speaking to Constable Scott
18 with regard to your concerns of Willie Pickton?

19 A I don't.

20 347 Q Okay.

21 A What was the timeframe in that?

22 348 Q That's August 10th, 2001.

23 A I'm trying to think why I would come forward
24 unless I had new information.

25 349 Q Do you -- you don't have notebooks, or anything

DAVE DICKSON

1 like that, still from the Vancouver City Police
2 department or --

3 A I will have to go through 'em, --

4 350 Q Okay.

5 A -- if I do.

6 351 Q You have them in your possession as opposed to --
7 you don't -- you weren't allowed to leave them
8 with the police department when you retire?

9 A No.

10 352 Q Oh, okay. I also notice in one of the files here,
11 on the 19th of April, 2000, you were asked to
12 check on Jacqueline Murdock's nieces who were
13 selling drugs. So, how often do you get this type
14 of request, that the sex trade workers are saying,
15 "Hey, can you help me out and" --

16 A A lot. You know, I get requests from right across
17 the country. You know, people are looking for
18 their daughters or their nieces or granddaughters
19 or, you know. So, probably once a week or more,
20 you know, I will get a request that comes through
21 somebody, you know, to try and track somebody down
22 and try and assist them.

23 353 Q Okay.

24 A What was the date on the Jim Scott meeting?

25 354 Q Oh the 10th of August, 2001. At some point,

DAVE DICKSON

1 there's a leak of information to the, the fifth
2 estate. Are you familiar with that? Were you
3 aware of that? No?

4 A No.

5 355 Q Okay. And I've got here, how many suspects were
6 you assigned or did you interview anyone. I think
7 I have asked you this already, but I will ask it
8 again, just in case. How many suspects were you
9 assigned, or did you interview anyone who you felt
10 to be a person of interest?

11 A No.

12 356 Q So, Project Evenhanded started up, and that was a
13 joint force as between the Vancouver City Police
14 and the RCMP. Were you ever asked to be part of
15 that project?

16 A No.

17 357 Q Did you ever have any contact with anyone from
18 that project?

19 A I did.

20 358 Q Can you tell us about that?

21 A Some of the detectives up there that knew my
22 background down there, used me as a, sort of a
23 liaison, you know, to get their foot in the door
24 down in the Downtown Eastside.

25 359 Q Right.

DAVE DICKSON

1 A So, you know, I had an, an excellent working
2 relationship with, you know I mentioned before,
3 WISH. You know, and that's, they put a dinner on,
4 and at that time, they were working out of the
5 First United Church on the corner of Gore and
6 Hastings. And so women would go in for, for
7 dinner at 6 o'clock and, for me, it was always a
8 -- I think I started going in there in 1995, and
9 there is no men allowed. So, when I first walked
10 in, I got a cold reception from the staff, but a
11 lot of the women, you know, said, "It's just Dave
12 Dickson. You know, we trust him." And so they
13 allowed me to come in. And, you know, I used to
14 go in and talk about bad dates and different tips
15 and, you know.

16 So, when the RCMP, you know, and the people
17 on the Evenhanded, you know, wanted an in, I took
18 'em in there, you know, so they could address the
19 women and say what they were doing and, you know,
20 basically looking for information and, and some
21 help. You know, I also took Ken Rossmo there, you
22 know, way before that. You know, that was when
23 the, you know, before the other review team got
24 started even. You know, we took Kim Rossmo to, I
25 think the WISH meeting, --

DAVE DICKSON

1 360 Q Right.

2 A -- about a hundred different women. And he told

3 them that his system wouldn't work because he

4 needed crime scenes and bodies, and so he

5 apologized and --

6 361 Q Oh, Kim Rossmo told people in the Downtown

7 Eastside as well?

8 A Yes.

9 362 Q That what wouldn't work?

10 A His system. His computer system.

11 363 Q Oh, his geographic profiling system?

12 A Yeah.

13 364 Q Because he had no crime scene to start --

14 A Yeah.

15 365 Q -- doing the profile on. Okay.

16 A So, some of the detectives that knew me and knew

17 my contacts with the women of the Downtown

18 Eastside, would call me for, you know, for

19 assistance.

20 366 Q Okay. So, did you ever, did you have daily

21 contact with the people from the Project

22 Evenhanded?

23 A No, probably weekly.

24 367 Q Weekly?

25 A Yes.

DAVE DICKSON

1 368 Q Okay.

2 A You know, sometimes, you know, two or three times

3 a week.

4 369 Q And were you optimistic or were you happy with the

5 fact that, okay, now there is a bigger project

6 starting on, on the Downtown Eastside missing

7 women or --

8 A Oh, no, for sure, I was happy.

9 370 Q Okay.

10 A Yeah. I mean, I was happy with the Review Team,

11 even though it was limited I think. But it was

12 always a, I think a complaint from the families or

13 organizations that there wasn't enough people

14 working on it. But as far as I was concerned, you

15 didn't need a lot of people working on it. If

16 the, if they had a valid tip, you know, they could

17 have called in 20 people the next day from the

18 Strike Force or something.

19 371 Q Right.

20 A So, it wasn't about the manpower.

21 372 Q Okay.

22 A You know, so I was happy when that started. But

23 after two years, they came to an end and really

24 didn't know what direction to go in.

25 373 Q Right.

DAVE DICKSON

1 A So, I was happy when the -- even though there was
2 a six-month lapse I think, you know, the Mounties
3 eventually took it on and it got -- it expanded,
4 you know, to encompass I think, you know, the
5 murders, you know. Had a number of other things,
6 you know.

7 374 Q Now, you mentioned the murders. Now, did you ever
8 see the operational plan for Project Evenhanded
9 when it first started out, saying this is how
10 we're going to progress our investigation?

11 A No.

12 375 Q Okay. Were you -- did you ever hear about the
13 murders and did you think they were all connected
14 to the missing women?

15 A No.

16 376 Q You didn't hear about them? Sorry, I probably
17 asked too many questions there.

18 A Well --

19 377 Q Or you didn't --

20 A No, sorry. No, I didn't think the murders -- I
21 mean, there is a number of different people out
22 there. I mean, Willie Pickton isn't the only --
23 Willie Pickton had a thing going. You know, from
24 what I knew of him and seen of him, he's, he's
25 pretty close to borderline idiot. The only reason

DAVE DICKSON

1 he got away with it, because of his location and
2 because of the vulnerable, you know, women. You
3 know, I mean, you have got women that will jump
4 into a car without any caution, you know, if there
5 is money and dope. You know, so that's why he was
6 sort of allowed to get away with it.

7 There are other guys, predators, out there
8 preying on the women and I don't think Willie
9 Pickton has got any connection to all the women
10 that were dumped in all the bushes in outlying
11 areas. I mean, we've got three bodies up
12 Chilliwack Mountain, you know. I don't think that
13 had anything to do with Willie Pickton. So, I
14 don't think the murders, a lot of the murders, you
15 know, are related to Pickton.

16 378 Q Now, is this a recent belief or is this a belief
17 that you held back then?

18 A That's a belief I held back then.

19 379 Q Okay.

20 A I mean, unfortunately, the Downtown Eastside has
21 been a hunting ground for a lot of, I guess for
22 lack of a better term, predators over the years.
23 I mean, you have got guys that they have -- they
24 have got caught and charged and, you know, I mean,
25 got a year in jail. Because, I mean, the usual

DAVE DICKSON

1 story is that, "She flipped out on me, she's a
2 crackhead. I mean, I didn't mean to kill her,"
3 and, oh, you get a year in jail.

4 So, there, there is a number of other people
5 out there. Whether they're serial killers, you
6 know, I don't know. But, I mean, there is
7 certainly no shortage of, of guys willing to, you
8 know, cross that line.

9 380 Q Okay. Well, as I say, you refer to Willie Pickton
10 as an idiot, but he eluded the police for so many
11 years, didn't he?

12 A Yeah. But, you know, as I say, there is a reason
13 for that. He had the -- somebody, and I can't
14 remember who, years ago mentioned what I thought
15 was happening, and I think I said at that time, it
16 has to be somebody that has a private property,
17 you know, of some kind, you know, that's, you
18 know, disposing of the women, you know, if they
19 are being killed, and I was right. He had the
20 perfect, you know, sort of place to do it. You
21 know, and that's really the only reason he got
22 away with it, you know. And, I mean, a number of
23 other things. I mean, the Charter of Rights and
24 (indecipherable) and all sorts of things.

25 381 Q What do you mean? How would the Charter of Rights

DAVE DICKSON

1 impact?

2 A Well, they, they tried to get on there originally,
3 when he first come up, to look at the farm and he
4 refused. You know, so that was a bit of a
5 roadblock. You know, so, I mean, there is a
6 number of factors that kicked in. But the main
7 thing was that he had the perfect victim, nobody
8 noticed them missing, and he had the perfect place
9 to get rid of the bodies.

10 382 Q Okay. So, what was the feedback from the streets
11 that you got when Pickton finally gets arrested?
12 He is identified, his picture was probably put out
13 there. What was the word on the street? How did
14 they feel about him? Like --

15 A That was when I guess a lot of comments started
16 coming out that, "Oh, I've been out there tons of
17 times and," you know, and it surprised me, you
18 know, but I guess it shouldn't have surprised me
19 but --

20 383 Q Were they surprised that he was the killer or were
21 they, like you said earlier, they weren't going to
22 give him up anyways, because it was a good thing
23 to them?

24 A There didn't appear to be any surprise, you know,
25 on a lot of the women's parts.

DAVE DICKSON

1 384 Q Okay.

2 A You know, I guess they, they knew or seen it
3 coming or, you know. And the thing -- and, once
4 again, you have got to put your, try and put your
5 mind in their, you know, existence. I mean,
6 they're so fixed on their drugs, you know, it's
7 like their world is like this. They really don't
8 care, you know, about Coquitlam or the pig farm or
9 -- like, some people said, "Oh, do the women feel
10 safer?" No, not at all. You know, Pickton is
11 just one guy, you know, one bad date.

12 You know, and one of the things when, you
13 know, I did a talk a couple of weeks ago to a
14 college of social workers, all young kids, that
15 the bad date thing. I mean, you have to try and
16 imagine that, you know, the Baker trial, which was
17 about 10 years ago, where the guy got sentenced.
18 He was picking up women down here, taking them to
19 the crack park, there's a little area at the foot
20 of Main Street.

21 385 Q Hm-hmm?

22 A There is a park there with a bit of a bush area.
23 This guy was taking women into this little
24 secluded area with a bit of bush and videotaping
25 what he did to them. For me, after, you know,

DAVE DICKSON

1 even after 25 or 24 years on the job, they called
2 me in to try and identify the women, because he
3 got caught by accident. Somebody heard the girl
4 crying and he got caught. The videotape got
5 seized. Filed another search warrant, got another
6 videotape under the tire in the car. You know, 35
7 women I think. And so they called me in to try
8 and identify the women so we could get charges,
9 which we did.

10 386 Q Right.

11 A My task was getting the women into court, and
12 sometimes I literally had to drag them out of bed
13 and buy 'em breakfast and I actually let one girl
14 go and fix and, you know, and got her back to
15 court. This guy did absolutely incredible things
16 to the women, you know, all videotaped. And the
17 part that was so disturbing was that it showed him
18 at the end giving her \$20 and the girl running off
19 the screen to look for her crack dealer.

20 Now, the time and everything was recorded on
21 the videotape. Some of the girls had been out
22 with a first date, and a second date, and, you
23 know, and a third date. In court, the defence
24 counsel asked the five women that we managed to
25 get charges on, "Do you consider him a bad date?"

DAVE DICKSON

1 All five women said, "no". You know, and --
2 because he paid.

3 387 Q Right.

4 A You know, and so that's the sad reality. These
5 women just crossed incredible barriers because
6 this guy was good at picking them out, because
7 they were hurting. You know, so, for \$20, for two
8 little pieces of rock, they were willing to be
9 subjected to extreme acts of violence and
10 degradation.

11 388 Q Hm-hmm.

12 A That's what -- this sort of is the same idea. You
13 know, and the women, you know, you can't imagine
14 what they will do for, you know, for as little as
15 10 and \$20.

16 389 Q It complicates the police investigation then,
17 doesn't it, then --

18 A Well, it does.

19 390 Q -- if people aren't willing to --

20 A For sure. And they're not willing, as I say, if
21 you don't have a relationship with the women,
22 they're not going to tell you nothing. If you, if
23 you have an attitude with the women, they're not
24 going to tell you nothing. You know, so, there is
25 a whole bunch of, you know, barriers. You know,

DAVE DICKSON

1 and it's not about having to promise them anything
2 or kiss their butts. It's, it's talking, about
3 talking to them like they're women and treat them
4 with respect.

5 391 Q Hm-hmm.

6 A You know, it's really as simple as that. Because
7 somebody said once to me years ago, "You should be
8 training other people." What training? It's not
9 about training. It's about, you know, I was
10 raised to treat women with the utmost of respect
11 and, and that they're, you know, they need
12 protection and, you know, they're every bit my
13 equal. But, you know, they need protection, and
14 especially down here.

15 And my role down here has always been with
16 the dealers, I mean, do your shit, sell your
17 stuff, I don't care. If you pick on the women or
18 mentally ill people, I will go out of my way to
19 hit you with a baseball bat. And they all know
20 that and they respect me for it. And even if I
21 walk along the streets, you know, which I do every
22 morning, if I come up, they will put their stuff
23 away. You know, they put their crack pipes away,
24 they stop for a second and, you know. So, that's
25 all it is, really, is just having some compassion

DAVE DICKSON

1 and respect for the people. They will tell you
2 anything.

3 392 Q But the people that -- you talked about the people
4 who worked on the Missing Persons Review Team.
5 Two of the officers you said, you know, went above
6 ranks to try to get into the unit. Obviously,
7 they were concerned about the missing women. Is
8 this why they joined the unit?

9 A No. I think they joined the unit to catch the bad
10 guy and, and look good.

11 393 Q Okay.

12 A You know, their record with the women wasn't very
13 good before that.

14 394 Q And what about Constable Shenher?

15 A Lori Shenher is an awesome person. You know, one
16 of the biggest hearts I ever met and an excellent
17 police officer. So, she did a really good job,
18 but she had some roadblocks too, you know. And
19 the two other officers were -- are very good too.
20 The detectives, the MCS detectives, you know, Mark
21 Chernoff and Ron Lepine. Good guys.

22 395 Q And what were the roadblocks that you, that you
23 thought Loris was facing?

24 A Oh, it's just, I mean, having to be the
25 coordinator and dole out, you know, you know, the

DAVE DICKSON

1 tips, you know, with these two other, you know,
2 officers that came in, you know, they just weren't
3 prepared to accept it. So, there was a bit of a,
4 I'm not sure if you would call it, you know,
5 disrespect or what it was. You know, they just
6 weren't prepared to work on other tips. They were
7 focused on this one person.

8 396 Q Okay. When Evenhanded first started up, do you
9 recall, did you ever hear that they refused to
10 take on additional missing person cases?

11 A No, I don't remember hearing that.

12 397 Q Okay. Were you aware that, at some point in 1999,
13 there was a mistaken belief that the women had
14 stopped going missing? Was there a time there
15 that women stopped going missing, that you are
16 aware of?

17 A Not that I was aware of.

18 398 Q Okay. Did you have ever contact with people from
19 the Provincial Unsolved Homicide Unit?

20 A Not really, other than that original list. I
21 think that was who I met with for that.

22 399 Q Okay. And how would you describe the relationship
23 with the Vancouver City Police, with the
24 neighbouring police departments? Did you have a
25 lot of contact over your time as a police officer

DAVE DICKSON

1 with different police services?

2 A There was always, for some reason, and I never, I
3 never understand it, but there always seemed to be
4 some -- what's the word -- you know, rivalry I
5 guess, you know.

6 400 Q And why was that?

7 A I don't know. I never understood it myself. It's
8 just, you know, you know, they don't share
9 information very well.

10 401 Q Okay.

11 A And that's, you asked me before about roadblocks.
12 I guess that was one of the bigger roadblocks, is
13 that, even within Vancouver, they don't share
14 information very good amongst themselves. You
15 know, when we used to have a substation out at
16 Oakridge, on the other side of -- like, Cambie and
17 41st, we had -- you know, it was like a different
18 station, you know. The, the person out there that
19 ran the station, ran it like he was chief of his
20 own department.

21 402 Q Oh, really?

22 A There was very poor communication between them and
23 us.

24 403 Q Hmm.

25 A And that's why it -- I, I laugh when I hear people

DAVE DICKSON

1 talking about regional policing, like we should be
2 all one police force because it be so much better.
3 It won't, because, I mean, we don't share
4 information amongst ourselves. So, if it's
5 regional, why -- the Mounties don't share
6 information amongst themselves. You know, we
7 don't work or play very well with the Mounties.
8 And so it's -- and I never really understood it,
9 but --

10 404 Q Okay.

11 A -- you know, but, I mean, it's certainly there.
12 So, that was one of the problems. I, I, I would
13 have a -- a detective came in from Evenhanded, and
14 he said, and this isn't that long ago, he said he
15 was working on, on the highway murders, and his
16 part was, was working in the semitrailer aspect of
17 it, because they think that maybe somebody with a
18 semitrailer was involved in the highway, you know.

19 But then I, I asked him if he was aware of
20 the girl that was dumped out of the semitrailer on
21 Nordel Way in Delta, and he had never heard of it.
22 And I said, "Well, you are working on the
23 semitrailer aspect," I says, "and you haven't
24 heard of this."

25 So, it really surprised me when I found out

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1 stuff like that. Because there was a girl, she
2 was dumped outside the semitrailer, off a
3 semitrailer, and identified -- they found a coat
4 on the girl that belonged to somebody else,
5 identified the girl, you know, that the coat
6 belonged to, and she gave me a description of the
7 guy and the semitrailer. But it was just, here's
8 a detective working on it, and he was never aware
9 of that part, you know. So, it used to always
10 sort of, you know, astound me that they're not
11 getting all the information. You know, so that
12 happens even amongst themselves.

13 405 Q Right.

14 A That's a huge roadblock. And, and I'm not sure
15 how you -- you know, regional policing isn't going
16 to do anything about that, because you are talking
17 about individual egos and personalities.

18 406 Q Yes. Okay.

19 A Mostly male, I might add.

20 407 Q Okay. I am going to leave you with one final
21 thought, so then I'm going to take a break and
22 Heather and I are just going to step outside just
23 to -- I just want to chat with Heather. I'm
24 looking to see, do you have any suggestions or
25 recommendations -- and you can think about this

DAVE DICKSON

1 while Heather and I step outside -- any
2 suggestions or recommendations that you would like
3 to put forward to me, for how to improve missing
4 women investigations or, or multi-jurisdictional
5 cases where police officers of different agencies
6 have to work together? I will let you think about
7 that and then I'm just going to step outside and
8 I'll be back in a --

9 A Is there a washroom? I'll think about it while
10 I'm going to the washroom.

11 408 Q Sure.

12 (Proceedings adjourned)

13 (Proceedings resumed)

14 MS. EVANS: And the time is now 10:30. We're still in the room
15 in the Davies Commission office.

16 409 Q So, Dave, just -- I will reread that question once
17 again to you. I was just saying, I was wondering,
18 at the end, is there any suggestions or
19 recommendations that you would like to put forward
20 that you think would improve missing women
21 investigations or multi-jurisdictional cases and
22 investigations?

23 A Well, the best-case scenario for a multi-
24 jurisdictional thing is what they're doing right
25 now with the different task forces. You need to

DAVE DICKSON

1 be able to cherry pick, yeah, whether it's, you
2 know, drugs or gangs or whatever, cherry pick
3 people that have the relationships or, or people
4 skills.

5 You know, Vancouver went through a phase
6 where the recruiting were focusing on hiring
7 people with degrees, you know, two and three
8 degrees. Over a two, three-year period, they
9 hired a whole bunch of people, their internal
10 complaints went up to literally a hundred percent,
11 because these people were so smart, but they had
12 no people skills.

13 410 Q Hm-hmm.

14 A They went out there and they were just pissing
15 everybody off. You know, so, you have to be --
16 you know, if you're focusing on organized crime,
17 you have to be able to cherry pick people from
18 different departments, you know, and that's sort
19 of the best kick at the can.

20 411 Q And these are all integrated units, are they?

21 A Yeah. And as far as, you know, the relationships
22 with, with the women, you need somebody out there,
23 well, like, myself. I mean, I have never blown my
24 own horn, but I had an awesome relationship.
25 There was an incident happened in Oppenheimer

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1 Park, I think it's, probably by now it's a murder,
2 but somebody got stabbed and he was just clinging
3 to life. They had the whole park taped off. You
4 know, I got down there about 4:30. Within about
5 10 minutes, you know, I knew what had happened, I
6 knew who, you know, was in the hospital. You
7 know, some of the police officers, there were six
8 units around the park, some of them didn't know
9 what had happened. You know, but, I mean, it's
10 just my relationships with the women, and they all
11 know what goes on down there. So, within minutes,
12 you know, I'd found out what happened. I hadn't
13 got the name of the bad guy yet.

14 412 Q Hm-hmm.

15 A You know, but that's what I mean by relationships.
16 So, the, the only way they can ever improve, you
17 know, the, the plight for the women -- well, I
18 mean, that's a whole other story. If you want to
19 talk about actually helping them and getting them
20 off the street and getting their lives cleaned up,
21 you can do that too. But they're, you know,
22 they're not willing to talk about mandatory
23 treatment here.

24 But in the meantime, like, I hate to do this,
25 but the new sex trade liaison person, you know,

DAVE DICKSON

1 she's absolutely an awesome person, but you cannot
2 find anybody, you know, a sex trade worker on
3 Hastings Street that knows who she is.

4 413 Q Why is that?

5 A The Department, when I left, the Department was
6 expecting an outcry from the community, and when
7 they didn't renew my contract, because the last
8 two years it was a contract. When it came up for
9 renewal, they told me they weren't going to renew
10 it. The only way they could avoid -- and the
11 community actually asked me if, if I wanted them
12 to, you know, do it again, and I, and I had had
13 enough. I said, "no, no." I said, "That's
14 enough."

15 The person that they gave it to was a person
16 that they thought they could put in there, that
17 they wouldn't get that outcry. You know,
18 unfortunately, this, this new person only has a
19 relationship with a couple of organizations, but
20 that's why they picked her. She was really the
21 only person they could. She can't do it. She's
22 just -- her time isn't, you know. You know, she
23 is just not out there, for a whole bunch of
24 different reasons, and I hate to, to, to sound
25 like I'm criticizing her, because she's absolutely

DAVE DICKSON

1 an awesome person. But there is not one girl on
2 Hastings Street that knows who she is, and a lot
3 of organizations have never seen her.

4 414 Q Okay.

5 A So, that's your sex trade liaison. And so that's
6 their idea of, you know, the strategic plan?

7 415 Q Hm-hmm.

8 A You know. They have to have people out there
9 that, that build relationships if they're serious
10 about -- you know, I have invited people -- when I
11 hear how much better it is down there, it's
12 disgusting. You know, I have invited people to
13 come for a walk with me and I'll let you talk to
14 the women yourselves and you will find out how
15 much better it is down there. The women are, are
16 subjected to daily violence by bad dates, by drug
17 dealers, you know, by idiots, you name it. So,
18 it's worse down there than it's ever been, after
19 spending countless, hundreds of millions of
20 dollars down there.

21 416 Q Okay.

22 A So, if, if they really want to get -- you know, do
23 something for the women, and not just the women,
24 but the users themselves, they have to bring in
25 mandatory treatment, like, Italy and Sweden and

DAVE DICKSON

1 New York and, you know, and, you know, that's the
2 only way you're ever going to, you know, save the
3 women I think, you know, give them some options.

4 But in the meantime, have somebody down there
5 that's out there, and it doesn't matter if they're
6 uniform or plainclothes. I mean, the uniform was
7 never a barrier for me. You know, if, if you are
8 sincere in talking to the people down there, they
9 will know it within minutes, because they have
10 been abused their whole life. You know, they can,
11 you know, judge you within minutes of meeting you.
12 If you pull out bullshit, they're going to call
13 you on it real quick. But if you are sincere and
14 honest with them, you know, they will trust you.

15 417 Q Okay. And are there any questions that I haven't
16 asked you that you were, you know, coming in here
17 today, you were thinking, "Oh, I am sure she's
18 going to ask me this," but then, no, I haven't,
19 that you wanted to say or anything else?

20 A I don't know. It's, you know -- I'm trying to
21 think how to put this. It's, it's, it's a bigger
22 thing, you know, like with the Department, you
23 know, the male sort of hierarchy, dominated, you
24 know, hierarchy of the police department I think
25 is, is a stumbling block. They have always had --

DAVE DICKSON

1 let me think of -- you know, society, in general,
2 doesn't -- you know, like, I used to argue that no
3 girl is out there because they choose to be out
4 there.

5 418 Q Hm-hmm.

6 A I can't argue that anymore, because the way
7 society is going, you know, kids, 14-year-old
8 kids, I don't know if you have kids, but you can
9 ask them about this, 14-year-old girls in schools
10 are performing oral sex, you know, just to fit
11 into the cliquey groups, because they don't think
12 it's real sex.

13 419 Q Yeah.

14 A You know, they're doing it in hallways and, you
15 know, and in bathrooms, you know. The guys in
16 school, 14-year-old guys are calling the girls
17 "bitches and hoes". This is really common, and
18 this is going back a few years. So, I mean, it's
19 still going on. And they have the lipstick game,
20 they have the bracelet game, just to show the guys
21 what sex acts they'll -- like, it's -- and you
22 have got nightclubs doing pimp and ho nights. So,
23 it's, all of a sudden, it's become okay. You
24 know, and you have got organizations down here
25 calling for legalization and decriminalization of

DAVE DICKSON

1 prostitution. You know, I mean, one day soon you
2 are going to see a career day in school, you know.
3 You know, so that's what I see.

4 And unfortunately, a lot of the guys in the
5 police department, you know, are buying into that
6 same attitude. It's, it's always been okay for
7 me, as a police officer, if I ever chose to do
8 that, to go out and get a hooker on the side. If
9 I got caught, which a lot of cops have got caught,
10 it's just brushed off. Nothing really happens.
11 That's, I think, for me, always been a pet peeve
12 of mine, because, you know, I have never crossed
13 that line, and I get upset when I see other people
14 doing it, because how does somebody trust me -- I
15 mean, and I could tell you stories of cops doing
16 stuff down that all the street seen it, you know.
17 But how do people trust me when I've got some
18 idiot out there in a uniform doing that? And it's
19 really a --

20 420 Q But my focus is really how, how do we improve on
21 the way we do investigations with missing women?
22 I mean, I know the, I know your frustration with
23 everything else that's going on in the Downtown
24 Eastside. But if I just seg, segment off one of
25 the big issues is, is how do we improve the way we

DAVE DICKSON

1 locate and investigate the missing women when the
2 sex trade workers or people go missing?

3 A You know, it's all about the trust thing and,
4 like, how do the women up there trust you when
5 they see stuff like that going on. And it's not
6 about the department screwing up and doing stupid
7 things. It's about how that department handles
8 it. And Vancouver has done a really poor job of
9 handling stuff like that, you know. So, you know,
10 that's, for me, is the key, is, you know, the
11 women have to trust you.

12 421 Q So, they have to have a good liaison?

13 A Yeah.

14 422 Q Okay.

15 A And the women, a lot of the women know me, that
16 if, if somebody ever crosses that line that's
17 taking advantage of them, come and tell me,
18 because I'll set up a camera and I'll catch the
19 guy doing it.

20 423 Q Okay.

21 A So, they know I don't tolerate that.

22 424 Q Okay.

23 A You know, because I tell them, it's like -- and I
24 get offered weekly or almost daily, for whatever.

25 425 Q Yeah.

DAVE DICKSON

1 A And how can you come to me for help --

2 426 Q Hm-hmm?

3 A -- you know, if I ever do that.

4 427 Q Yeah.

5 A So, if I've got some other guy out there doing it,

6 I'm going to get him, if I can.

7 428 Q Okay.

8 A But the problem is, and that's what I said about

9 people screwing up, I put a report in, you know,

10 to Internal a few years back on an officer that

11 was doing just that. He had five different girls.

12 I sat in Internal office while the inspector in

13 Internal basically tried to give me shit and

14 compared it to him going across to the courthouse

15 and having an affair, and, you know, it didn't go

16 well. I walked out of the office.

17 429 Q Okay.

18 A So, that's, and that's still, you know, the same

19 thing today. I had a -- when I left two years

20 ago, I put a file in --

21 430 Q But are these related to missing women

22 investigations? Because I --

23 A Very --

24 431 Q -- what I'm afraid --

25 A Very similar.

DAVE DICKSON

1 432 Q -- is I don't want this to take us --
2 A No, no.
3 433 Q -- down a path that --
4 A But it's related to reports of violence towards
5 women --
6 434 Q Okay.
7 A -- and how police treat them.
8 435 Q Okay.
9 A So, for me, it's the same thing when I put this
10 file in two years ago --
11 436 Q So, one of your recommendations, would you say
12 then that you think that police officers need more
13 training on sex trade workers and how to deal with
14 them and how to communicate with them? Would you
15 think that would help?
16 A That would be, yeah, that would be fair to say.
17 Oh, no, for sure.
18 437 Q Okay.
19 A I'm trying to think of an easy answer and that
20 would probably be it. I don't think there's any
21 easy answer, but that would certainly help, some
22 training, and, you know, and compassion.
23 438 Q Right.
24 A And, you know, because you have guys that come out
25 of university with those attitudes, and then no

DAVE DICKSON

1 amount of training is going to make any
2 difference.

3 439 Q Hm-hmm.

4 A So, it's got to be --

5 440 Q Sometimes you can't --

6 A -- like I said before --

7 441 Q -- teach compassion, right?

8 A No. And so you have got to be able to cherry pick
9 people --

10 442 Q Yeah.

11 A -- like Lori Shenher. And it doesn't really
12 matter if it's male or female, but, you know, Lori
13 Shenher, you know, people like that, that sit down
14 and, right away, they just have that sort of
15 warmth and compassion, and, and the people will
16 pick it up pretty quickly.

17 443 Q Okay.

18 A They know.

19 444 Q Okay. That's great. So, I'm going to end the
20 interview here at -- it's almost 10:40 a.m.
21 Thanks very much.
22 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)
23
24
25

DAVE DICKSON

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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Gabriele Heise, RPR, RCR

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Official Court Reporter

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United Reporting Service

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TIP 2659

**Project Evenhanded
Missing Sex Trade Workers**

2001E-1388

**2002-02-08
@1705 hours**

Detective MCKNIGHT telephoned Constable Dave DICKSON of the Vancouver Police Department. The purpose of the contact was to determine what conversation had occurred between Constable DICKSON and several sex trade workers on 2002-02-07.

Constable DICKSON sat down with a group of some 15 sex trade workers who were watching the news on television. At the time, coverage was on a pig farm in Port Coquitlam and the PICKTON family. Several of the sex trade workers stated that they knew Willie and the newsperson was talking about him.

Constable DICKSON advised me that he spoke to two of the workers had dealings with him and that most of the sex trade workers knew PICKTON.

Marilyn Birnes was one of the sex trade workers that CST DICKSON spoke with. She stated that she had been out to the PICKTON farm about forty times and had never had any problems with him. She advised CST DICKSON that she had been out to the property last Monday. (2002-02-04)

A second sex trade worker identified as STW1421 advised CST DICKSON that she had been with PICKTON some time last week and that she had spent the night at the farm. She stated that she had not had any problems and that PICKTON had never wanted to have sex with any of the girls.

Both Birnes and STW1421 advised Constable DICKSON that PICKTON often gave sex trade workers money and that he never requested sex or wanted any service for the money. They also indicated that another sex trade worker had lived with PICKTON for some time and had never had any concerns about him. They could not recall the sex trade worker's name but started to describe her to Constable DICKSON. At this point another sex trade worker arrived and both stated that she was the one that they had been describing.

Constable DICKSON recognized Dinah Taylor and ask her about her relationship with Willie PICKTON. Taylor stated that she had lived with PICKTON on the farm for almost two years and had left about six months ago. Taylor indicated that she came and went as she pleased and had never heard of any problems or had concerns about Picton. Taylor stated that PICKTON often gave her money and had in fact given her 150.00 dollars for nothing. Constable DICKSON attempted to question her further about anything unusual that may have occurred on the farm but TAYLOR seemed hesitant to continue the conversation.

2659

Constable DICKSON passed on the information to Detective MCKNIGHT and plans to question TAYLOR further in regards to this on 2000-02-09.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Clary", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Exploration of Resource needs to deal with present DTES situation

PREMISE: All evidence would point to there still being a person or persons who are coming into the DTES and taking STW's out. Baring our finding them, they must be considered murder victims.

GOAL: The suspects in this must come into the area, and have a means to take the women out. Therefore we need to be able to do the following:

- a) Know which STW's are out on the streets on each given night
- b) Know what "johns" are on the streets each night looking for them.

Eventually when a STW goes missing, we should be able to consult our lists and ID some viable suspects. It may be that a number of women will go missing before a pattern is developed that points to anyone, however, if the work is done thoroughly the pattern should emerge.

01-10-24

Meeting at SRY with Geramy Field, Lauri Shehner, Dave Dixon, Don Jarvis, Jim McKnight, Phil Little

Purpose: Try to get an idea of issues involved with Evenhanded moving into the current situation in the DTES.

Dave Dixon

He is connected with STW's through attending WISH dinners. He hears their complaints and bad tricks etc. 4 members of SOS attended the last one to start to collect info on "good dates". The patrol members are busy going from call to call, and can not dedicate adequate attention to the problem of collecting "john" information.

They defined the Police Presence as follows:

Dave Dixon- liaising with the STW's, DEYAS, WISH, etc.

Patrol - busy, but in area

Bike Squad- strong presence good potential resource

Traffic - can supply traffic ticket, etc. info in area

Vice - presently mandated toward Pimps

COPY

DISC- works very well, has created an extensive John list.

CPO's- may have planning and research info on issues

NON POLICE RESOURCES

DTES Business Assn. They are presently working on videoing "johns" etc.

DEYAS- Bad Date sheets, messages for the STW's.

Adolescent Street Workers - are on the streets talking to the women

PACE - Prostitution Alternative ???

WISH - Womens Inner City Safe Haven- provide meals and meeting place for STW's.

Geramy Field advises that under the present system information is and will continue to be erratic and incomplete.

CONSENSUS: That a dedicated group would have to be working in the DTES. Their primary responsibility would be the development of relationships with the STW's, the non police agencies/groups, and the collection of "john" information.

01-10-30 Det. Daryl Heatherington and Adam attend VCR to meet with a number of people to continue to explore DTES situation and solutions.

Oscar Ramos DISC (Deter & Identify Sex Trade Consumers) This system has been widely accepted. Is user friendly and been in operation for 2 ½ years. Lots of data on it. Focuses on 5 key areas

a: Consumes

b: Prostitutes

c: Juveniles

d: Pimps

e: Special Interest areas: ie: checks where there is rape kit, naked john masturbating, etc.

Is connected throughout western Canada and Western US,

They have had about 168 street check entries in the last 3 mo.

Suggestion: by counting the # STW's on street, will give you an idea of the # johns they are servicing .

COPY

Doug Lang VPD SGT. VICE

Suggestions: Will need dedicated group, working on street, should be on foot (see more)
If too great a police presence felt, suspect may move to another area

resource min. of 6 plus one inside liaison person, and one data entry person for DISC

DISC will have to get a computer terminal at SRY. Need Letter of Understanding, High Speed Internet access, no firewalls.

Dan Dickout: Missing Persons VPD

They get about 2 or 3 missing STW's per month. These usually come in through E-Comm. They have a number of steps they routinely follow: welfare is the main identifier if they are around.

Usually finds 60% of them from work at desk. Within a week or so. It is after this point that he could use our help, to do the leg work, etc.

Sandy ??? Social worker who works with VPD member on streets

Information:

DEAS has a photo system at needle exchange

WISH meeting good source of info

DEYAS Bad Dates, Health Vans- needle exchange- the drivers are great source of info.

Health Nurse

Dave Dixon

Business Assn's

Native Health Clinic

SHEWAY- pregnant street women- mostly STW's.

VANDU- Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users

DUDES- Drug users of DTES

COPY

Suggestions:

Hold a meeting where you give the women free food and coffee- they will attend

Meet with John Turvey and his wife Deb Mearns they are the head of DEYAS and will need their support. They are connected to Dave Dixon

Community Action Teams- RAYCAM- housing projects

Possible Drop Box for john info

Believes we can develop and enlist the aid of the DTES STW's. To collect john info

Check out World Wide Web Site - where to get STW's.

Has two men who are favorites for suspects: John Milliar (ph) has an orange van travels between here and California. Male who passes himself off as a counselor. She has resume will get it to Daryl.

COPY

HOMICIDE SQUAD CASE INVESTIGATION LOG

⑦

puc

DATE	ACTION
01-04-03	Commenced organization of MP-7 @ LANE. (completed)
01-04-04	
0940.	Met briefly with Cst DICKSON
V6	PGR 686-7523. Hope party will be meeting on a weekly basis, once the move has occurred. Agreed that he should give a briefing on his function and knowledge of facts to date in the near future.
	→ Completed organization of MP-8 @ BORNHAVEN
	→ Completed organization of MP-9 @ HALLMARK
01-04-05	
1000	Meeting with group @ 312 MAIN VPD - FIELD / MCKNIGHT / LITTLE / DICKOUT / LEGGITT / FITZGERALD RCMP - ADAM / ST-MAR / KINGSBURY - discussion re data entry / DNA EXHIBITS re local bank / VICTIMS - general discussion re history of file re VPD / RCMP (Notes to file)

and anti police. S(A) agrees the right thing to do is to get F/W1 to talk to the police and he is willing to pay that price.

981016

PICKTON now driving DMN 172 1992 Chev Cavalier.

981104

Det/Cst Shenher called Cpl Connor to advise that S/Sgt Giles has offered to provide monies to advance the investigation with respect to a UCO, witness protection, aerals for FLIR and land photo, and putting together a joint submission to the Unsolved Homicide Unit.

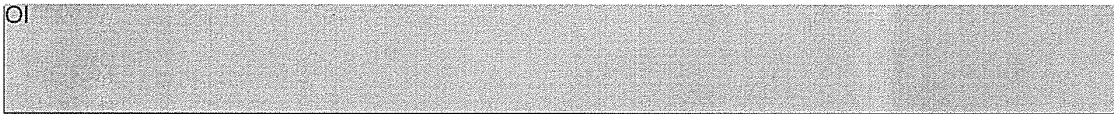
981105

PICKTON photo supplied to DISC members to show STWs re possible bad dates.

981211

S(A) out of detox. He hasn't seen F/W1 since rehab. Cpl Connor and Det/Cst Shenher agree to say in touch with S(A) and he will call them with any new info.

990119



990203

Left message for S(A) at Detox.

990210

Message left for S(A) to call. No response. PIRS shows he has been ordered to undergo a 30 day psych assessment.

990210

Meeting at 312 with Historical Homicide, Coquitlam RCMP members, VPD MCS and Missing Persons re PICKTON. Strategy meeting and an agreement to blitz DTES with his photo.

990217

Coquitlam RCMP unable to assist with blitz.

990224

Cpl Connor phoned Det/Cst Shenher to discuss possibility of doing checks this weekend. She advised that she and several others, including Cst Dave Dickson, interviewed approximately 80 DTES prostitutes and none knew PICKTON. She followed those enquiries with a meeting with another 50 girls with the same negative results.

990225

Left message with S(A) father.

990310

S(A) mother called. Will get him to call when she sees him.

990311

Message from MSSH with new address for S(A).

990323

Letter sent to S(A) asking him to call.

990326

Info from New West PD. PICKTON was driving 7020YV 1986 red mini pickup on 990321. R/o to P&B Demolition.

990419

Met with S(A). No further new info re F/W1. Discussed other erroneous info. relating to pager messages from 'Mercury'.

OI

990421

Met with New West PD re PICKTON. Burnaby RCMP, NWPD, Coq RCMP, Unsolved Homicide Unit and VPD present. It was agreed that PICKTON'S photo will be shown to all respective sex trade workers, surveillance by Special O conducted and a DNA sample be collected and an approach to PICKTON'S niece after the first ideas are completed.