



Reuniting families since 1986



WINTER 2011

The Missing Children Society of Canada is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the active search for abducted and missing children.

Since 1986, MCSC has assisted law enforcement and searching families through professional investigations, public awareness and family support programs.

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ONE YEAR AND COUNTING... CONTINUING OUR 25 YEAR LEGACY

2011 marks the 25th anniversary of MCSC. For this occasion, our Executive Director, Amanda Pick, takes a look back over her first year with the organization and continuing MCSC's legacy into the future.



January marks my one year as Executive Director here at MCSC.

It is amazing to me that one year has passed as it seems like only yesterday I walked through the doors for the first time. I remember sitting with our team and discussing what we wanted to achieve in 2010. We felt that it

was time to really examine how we were serving our searching families and if there were ways to enhance our work. Being the only organization that spends each and every day searching for Canada's missing and abducted children can sometimes feel overwhelming, especially since all of us here feel such a strong connection to our families. It is that very connection which inspires us to never stop in our efforts, to reach out in every way possible to all Canadians and inspire them to help us find these children.

In the past year, I have had personal highlights that I cherish, such as crossing the finish line of

the Goodlife Fitness Marathon in Victoria, BC with one of our families who have been searching for their daughter since she went missing in 1993. Or hugging a father who we reunited with his daughter after a 2 year abduction, as she sat in our office laughing and coloring pictures for us to put up on our walls.

There are other memories that I will also carry with me forever, such as standing at a press conference in Toronto with the parents whose daughter was

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HELP US CONTINUE THE SEARCH DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.MCSC.CA

CANADA NEEDS A DNA DATABANK FOR MISSING PERSONS

by Judy Peterson

We are fascinated by the forensic science dramatized in TV shows like CSI, but did you know that Canadian investigators do not have the capability to compare the DNA of missing persons to found human remains nationally?

Canada has a crime scene and a convicted offender DNA databank, but it is used only to

identify criminals, not to link DNA from missing persons with unidentified remains.

Although the software, technology and infrastructure for a missing person databank are in place, the government has been stonewalling its implementation for almost 10 years, citing legal and

jurisdictional issues. The delay, however, really has more to do with lab resources and funding.

For nearly a decade, federal and provincial governments have debated, studied, analyzed and submitted reports. While they form endless

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STILL MISSING



CHRISTOPHER WATKINS Date of Birth April 1, 2004 Eyes.....Blue Hair.....Blonde Missing Since March 6, 2009 Missing From Toronto, ON



ALEXANDER WATKINS Date of Birth June 7, 2001 Eyes.....Blue Hair.....Brown Missing Since March, 6, 2009 Missing From Toronto, ON



TANIA MARIE MURELL Date of Birth June 20, 1976 Eyes.....Brown Hair.....Blonde Missing Since January 20, 1983 Missing From Edmonton, AB



17 MILLION EXTRA SETS OF EYES

There are over 17 million Canadians currently on Facebook – that's 17 million extra pairs of eyes who can help bring missing children home - and it's as simple as "Liking" our Fan Page.

Head to our Facebook Fan Page to find great resources, videos and tip hotlines as well as stay up to date on all the activities at MCSC. Our goal is to empower you with information that you can pass on to your community - whether that's online or around your neighborhood!

Help us engage 17 million sets of eyes in 2011. **'Like' us on Facebook today!**

25th Anniversary (continued from page 1)

walking to school and vanished over a year ago, or listening to the tragic story of one of our families whose child's remains were finally located.

These are powerful examples a few of my experiences in just one year here at MCSC. 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of MCSC and our mission of reuniting searching families with their children. You can imagine how many thousands of stories that have happened in those years. Thousands of children who were successfully located, and thousands of families who were supported in their search.

I think the one thing that stands out as the most important story of the last 25 years is this ... that MCSC was created and that without MCSC all of the literally thousands of Canadian families whose children have gone missing would have had nowhere to turn to for help.

That is the legacy I am so proud to be a part of continuing, until the time that hopefully one day there will not be a need to search anymore.

DNA Databank (continued from page 1)

committees and fight over who will be responsible and who will pay, human remains in coroners' offices across Canada continue to be unidentified.

My 14-year-old daughter, Lindsey Jill Nicholls, vanished in 1993, and I remember the very moment I realized her remains could be among those unidentified samples. I have the right to know if my daughter's body has been found, and Lindsey deserves justice and a proper burial.

To this end, I have lobbied for the passage of what has come to be known as Lindsey's Law, which would allow investigators to collect DNA from missing persons or their close relatives and compare it to DNA from crime scenes and unidentified human remains.

The quest for a missing persons DNA databank is not just about giving comfort to family members of the missing; it is also about the safety of your family and of all Canadians.

Until remains are identified, the police cannot begin an investigation, so if Lindsey was abducted and murdered, her murderer is still out there.

This past November, Lindsey's Law gained national attention when the CTV news program W5 aired the documentary 'Chasing Ghosts'. The program revealed that a similar DNA databank has been operating in the US for several years, providing police and families across that country with answers and closure in the search for their missing children. It also



Judy's daughter, **Lindsey Nicholls**, went missing August 2, 1993 at the young age of 14 years old. Lindsey was last seen walking down a country road near Courtney, BC.

Please contact MCSC with any information about Lindsey.

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TIPS@MCSC.CA

exposed the current Canadian government's inaction. The Chasing Ghosts documentary can be viewed online at: http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/WFive/20101118/w5_missing_loved_ones_101120/

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews is responsible for the existing DNA databank. Both the Senate and the Public Safety Committees have recommended that he act quickly to implement Lindsey's Law.

This will not only help bring comfort and the possibility of closure to thousands of family members, it could also identify serial murders and make our country a safer place. **To lend your support to Lindsey's Law, please sign the online petition I have created at: <http://www.gopetition.com/petition/41301.html>**

To learn more about the need for a DNA databank, please visit the website www.lindseyslaw.com or find our Lindsey's Law page on Facebook.

CALGARY GIRL REUNITED WITH FATHER AFTER 2 YEAR ABDUCTION

This past fall, a Calgary father has lived the moment he's dreamed of for nearly 2 years.

On November 17, 2010, he was reunited with his little girl who was abducted by her non-custodial mother on December 2, 2008. To protect the child's identity, her name and her family's names are being withheld at this time.

MCSC supported the reunification process and was with the father as he welcomed his little girl back to Canada. Following their first week back together, the father and daughter dropped by our head office in Calgary for a short visit. It was an emotional and heart-warming day for all of us.

"We are thrilled for this searching father, and we are so proud to be able to support him and his beautiful daughter through

this complicated and delicate process," expressed Maria Sbert, Director of Investigation Unit with MCSC.

The case brought together the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Calgary Police Service, INTERPOL and MCSC to investigate the girl's abduction. It was believed that the abducting parent and the child had travelled to China.

"The first step is to determine the country where the child may be living in after the abduction and once the location has been narrowed down, the investigation begins hoping to secure the child's current residence," explained Sbert.

"After a lengthy investigation involving cooperation across the international community, the little girl was located in China," Sbert continued. "The legal process began and after nearly two years – we have a success story for this searching father."

THANK YOU TO OUR MARATHON SUPPORTERS



Thank you to everyone who supported our "Missing Children Searchers" team in the 2010 GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon.

We were proud to be chosen as a benefitting charity for the 2010 GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon Charity Pledge Program, which took place October 10th. Thanks to the many walkers, runners, donors and sponsors who supported our team, nearly \$12,000 was raised for our ongoing search for missing children.

A special thanks to the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club for hosting a Candlelight BBQ and Dock Party in support of MCSC. The party was held on September 25th as a lead up to the marathon.

It was a tremendous show of support and community, which raised over \$7,500 toward our marathon effort. Thanks for the great evening and the tremendous support!



IN HONOUR OF / IN MEMORY OF

Thank you to the donors who sent donations in memory of the following people during 2010:

In memory of Lysane Berthiaume	\$25.00
In memory of Jozica Kelemina	\$20.00
In memory of Phylliss Shaw	\$180.00
In memory of Jean Stadnyk	\$50.00
In memory of Don Stalman	\$1,325.00

For information about planned giving arrangements or to make a donation in honour of a loved one, please visit our website at www.mcsc.ca or contact us at info@mcsc.ca.

MCSC was saddened to hear about the passing of Mr. Don Stalman this past summer.

Don was the grandfather of one of our missing children, Brittany Stalman (shown in photo at the right), who disappeared November 13, 2006. Brittany's family has been a long-time supporter of our organization. Many of our staff had the opportunity to meet the Stalman family at the 2009 Candlelight Walk, which was an incredibly touching experience that we hold close to our hearts.



In an incredibly generous and selfless tribute, Don's wife Pat requested that donations be made to MCSC in lieu of flowers at Don's funeral. We are so touched by Pat's unwavering strength and dedication to MCSC and the search for her granddaughter, Brittany. Because of her gesture, MCSC received \$1,325 in donations in memory of Don.

Our sincere sympathies go out to the Stalman family for their loss.



Proudly Hosted By:



Candlelight Gala 2011



Join us
because the search must continue

To do your part in the search for missing children,
purchase tickets online at
www.mcsc.ca

Date Thursday, May 26, 2011
Location Fairmont Palliser Hotel
133 9th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta

Tickets
Single \$175.00
Table For Eight \$1400.00
Dress..... Formal, Semi-Formal,
Business Formal



JOIN THE SEARCH. STAY IN TOUCH WITH MCSC!



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www.missingchildrencanada.blogspot.com



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THANK YOU TO OUR SEARCH PARTNERS



...because the search must continue.