

## Police Join Forces to Identify Child Abductor

In June 1995, a nine year-old girl from Grand Prairie, Alberta was abducted on her way home from school. After forcing her into his vehicle, the perpetrator drove to an isolated area where he sexually assaulted the little girl. He then drove back to where he had abducted the girl and released her.

In February 1998, a similar crime occurred in Prince George, British Columbia when an eight year-old girl was abducted from outside a convenience store. The perpetrator drove to a rural area where he sexually assaulted the girl, and then drove off, leaving his young victim alone on the side of the road.

A coordinated investigation by officers in Grand Prairie and Prince George identified hundreds of persons of interest. Some of the suspects already had DNA profiles in the NDDB Convicted Offender Index and were cleared of suspicion when their DNA profiles didn't match evidence collected from the assaults.

The elimination of suspects helped police to focus their investigation, and good investigative techniques combined with forensic DNA casework helped to identify a single suspect. A warrant was obtained to collect a biological sample from the suspect, and the resulting DNA profile confirmed that the suspect's DNA matched with evidence collected from both sexual assaults.

Two days after investigators obtained the offender's biological sample through the use of the DNA warrant, the suspect committed suicide before he could be charged and brought to trial.

It was later learned that the offender had been convicted of a similar crime in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, in 1999. Unfortunately the *DNA Identification Act* was not proclaimed until June 2000, so his biological sample had not been collected at the time of his conviction, nor was the offender eligible for retroactive sample collection.

A photograph of a swing set on a sandy beach at sunset. The swing seat is empty and hangs from a chain. The background is a warm, golden glow from the setting sun over the ocean.

**“In my 19 years of service as a police officer, the most satisfying feeling I ever had was when I told the victim the outcome of our investigation, and that the offender would not harm her or anyone else again. The look of relief on her face was worth all of the effort myself and all the investigators made to **identify the perpetrator.**”**

**Cst. Suzanne McKelvie,  
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