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Missing Women Commission of Inquiry	
EXHIBIT No: 51	
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 Registrar	

November 1, 2011

Missing Women's Inquiry Commission

Dear Commissioner,

In the course of my appearance before the Commission on October 18th, 2011, you asked me to review the documents relating to the community-based research project (Maka Project) and advise whether there were any further references to the Pickton farm or the missing women, either in the answers to the questionnaires administered to the cohort of 255 women, or in the narratives from the focus groups conducted with 46 women.

Having reviewed the materials, I can advise the Commission that there are no further references to the Pickton farm or the missing women in either the questionnaire data or the focus group narratives.

With respect to the qualitative research, this involved documenting the narratives of 46 women through focus group discussions from December 2005 to March 2006. As I said in my testimony, the narratives only included mention of the missing women and Pickton farm in the context of delayed inaction and lack of response by the police. The results of this qualitative research were shared widely with community, public, policy makers and government officials, and published in a peer-reviewed journal, *Social Science and Medicine*, in December 2007. All the references to the missing women and the Pickton farm are set out in this peer-reviewed article, and my written report that I presented to the Commission.

With respect to the questionnaires, this component of the research involved an open prospective cohort of 255 women with recruitment beginning in 2006 and ongoing until the end of 2008. A baseline questionnaire was administered to each new participant. Participants were then re-interviewed every 6 months, as follow-up, during the course of the study.

The initial baseline questionnaire did not include any questions relating to the missing women or visits to the Pickton farm. On April 23rd, 2007, the University of British Columbia (UBC) Providence Health Care Research Ethics Board (REB) approved the addition of two new questions to the questionnaire:

- (a) "Do you personally know women who went to the Pickton farm?" (Yes or No), and
- (b) "Have you ever been to the Pickton farm?" (Yes or No)

These two questions were included at the suggestion of women in the community (peer research team of current/former sex workers) and our community advisory

board in an effort to formally document what was already well known in the community. The first interviews, whether baseline interviews or follow-up, in which these questions were asked took place in the interview cycle beginning in January 2008. The research team began analysis of the complete baseline and follow-up questionnaire results of 2006-2008 in December 2008, and these results were subsequently first published in the British Medical Journal in August 2009, and shared with community, public, and policy makers.

We did not have ethics approval for either our qualitative or quantitative research to ask any further questions about knowledge of or interactions with Pickton or the Pickton farm. However, if any women had disclosed material that could have been of relevance to the criminal proceedings against Pickton we would have followed our standard protocol, approved by the Research Ethics Board, and worked with the women to support them in coming forward if they chose to. No such information was in fact given to us, and in any event the Pickton trial had come to an end in December 2007, before the additional questions on the questionnaire had been put to any of the women.

As described in my evidence given to the Commission on October 17th and 18th 2011, the community-based research project (Maka Project) in partnership with WISH Drop-In Centre Society and other community partners aimed at ensuring the voices and experiences of some of the most marginalized women were put forward through the research. Our peer-reviewed research on repeated and ongoing violence and systemic failures has been widely shared with the community, public, and policy makers over the last five years. These knowledge translation efforts have been taken on jointly by the academic researchers and community partners in an effort to ensure improved policies and programs that promote the health and safety of marginalized women.

Yours sincerely,



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