NATIONAL POST

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Arrest Made In Teen Abduction

Met On Internet

Trevor Wilhelm, Canwest News Service
Published: Thursday, March 20, 2008

Police dragged a man off a bus in Winnipeg Tuesday, after finding him with a 14-year-old girl from Saskatchewan they allege he met over the Internet, abducted, and intended to take to his home in Windsor, Ont.

Daniel George Nickolson, 41, is charged with abduction of a person under the age of 16 years. Winnipeg police arrested him after getting a warning from the RCMP in Swift Current, Sask., that he was coming through their town with the girl.

Saskatchewan officers started looking for the girl after her parents reported she had left a note stating she was running off. Sergeant Brad Kaeding, with the RCMP in Saskatchewan, said it's likely Mr. Nickolson was taking the girl back to Windsor.

"That would be one speculation. That was why we asked that the bus be checked in Winnipeg when it got there."

Sgt. Kaeding said Mr. Nickolson left Windsor and headed to Swift Current. He picked up the girl there and they both got on a bus, he said. The girl's family last saw her Monday. "It's believed she left the family home some time overnight," Sgt. Kaeding said. Her parents reported her missing Tuesday morning.

Police handed the girl over to child and family services, which will likely return her to her parents.

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The ChronicleHerald.ca

Published: 2008-03-20

Parents furious at those who saw girl with man

41-year-old took taxi to pick up teen girlfriend on dark road

By JAMES TURNER The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — A 14-year-old girl from Swift Current, Sask., who ran away into the night with an older man she met on the Internet has been returned safely to her relieved family, but they're furious that no one in their community even raised an eyebrow at seeing the pair together.

The girl's mother said Wednesday that her daughter had climbed out of her basement bedroom window at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday with two suitcases in tow, leaving behind a note saying she had run away with her Internet boyfriend.

The parents found the note the next morning at their rural home 27 kilometres outside of Swift Current.

The mother said her daughter had made her way in the dark to the main road where she was met by older man in a taxi hired in Swift Current. The pair then caught a Greyhound bus headed for Winnipeg, where they were apprehended by city police.

Daniel George Nickolson, 41, of Windsor, Ont., has been charged with abducting a person under the age of 16.

Police turned the teen over to Child and Family Services, which released her into the care of a family friend who was taking the girl home on Wednesday.

The girl's mother angrily wondered why the taxi driver didn't find the situation strange, adding she is also upset with staff at the Swift Current bus depot.

But Bob Fehr, owner of City Wide Cab, said there was no reason for the taxi's 18-year-old driver to question the fare.

"It could be father-daughter, or mother and daughter — it has no bearing," Fehr said. "If they have the money, they get the ride."

Nickolson's mother, reached at her Windsor home, said she was "at a loss for words" upon hearing the allegations regarding her son, who she last heard from last Saturday.

"He said he was broke down with a company truck in the middle of nowhere," she said, declining further comment.

Staff Sgt. Ed McNorton of the Windsor police said Nickolson was known to them, with his last contact with them being in 2007.

The girl's older sister said the 14-year-old didn't have access to her own computer. The family had tried to lock the family's computer with a password.

She described her sister as someone who does well at school, and who has a number of friends.

Signy Arnason, director of Cybertip.ca, Canada's national tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children, said girls between the ages of 13 and 15 are the most prone to be victims of Internet luring.

Girls of this age are seeking greater independence and deeper relationships, Arnason said, but when these coming-of-age issues mix with the Internet, it can cause serious problems.

Arnason said parents and caregivers have to teach children that it's abnormal and weird to have adults seeking intimate friendships with children.