
hazel8500

Not another blog

[Orato Gets Their Women!](#)

Jan 9, 2007 in [Pickton](#), [Orato.com](#), [citizen journalism](#), [kudos](#), [Women](#), [Blogging](#)

Online news site sending two former prostitutes to cover Pickton trial

Stephanie Levitz
Canadian Press

Tuesday, January 09, 2007

VANCOUVER (CP) - Two former prostitutes will be among the hundreds of media covering the murder trial of Robert Pickton, a Vancouver-based news website has announced.

The two women spent a number of years as sex trade workers in Vancouver and both knew some of the victims in the case, [Orato.com](#) said. The two women came forward after the website put out a public call for reporters last week.

Orato's editor-in-chief Paul Sullivan said he had a meeting with both of the women on Friday and they were keen to be a part of trial coverage.

One of them, Trisha Baptie, had planned to attend the trial anyway, said Sullivan, and the other, Pauline VanKoll, lives in New Westminster where the trial is being heard.

Both women are no longer working in the sex trade and neither has a background as a reporter.

"They are going to go there when it is appropriate to be there," Sullivan said. "We are asking them to shape their own coverage."

Orato issues stories written by so-called citizen journalists and Sullivan said his website is deliberately looking for subjectivity in its coverage.

"I want to hear their stories," he said.

Sullivan said he hopes to have the women officially accredited as journalists this week.

More than 250 journalists have signed up to cover the trial, which is expected to last for a year.

However, a spokeswoman for a group that advocates for sex-trade workers says she's worried about the toll the trial will take on the women.

"I worry about workers being triggered about events they've endured while listening to that kind of evidence," said Sue Davis, of Prostitution Alternatives Counselling Education, known as P.A.C.E.

Davis said she's too emotionally connected to the case to have volunteered to be a citizen journalist and hopes the site operators and the women have talked about what the potential emotional fallout could be.

Sullivan said those concerns had been addressed.

"I said that I would feel awful if anything came up that caused them pain in any way," he said. "In a way they see it as part of the process of getting a perspective on this whole phenomenon."

The women will not be paid, but [Orato.com](#) will cover transportation and meal expenses, as well as child care if necessary.

They've also retained the services of a lawyer who will vet the coverage for any potential legal concerns.

Though wary of the process, Davis did applaud the website's initiative to bring the voices of sex workers into trial coverage.

"It was a well-meant gesture on their part to offer something like this," she said.

Pickton is charged with killing 26 sex-trade workers on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and his trial on six charges begins in two weeks.

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THE GLOBAL WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT

<http://www.globalwomensmemorial.org/>

Missing Vancouver Women

<http://www.missingpeople.net/>

Vanished Voices-Angela Jardine

<http://www.vanishedvoices.com>

Seen Me Lately

<http://www.seenmelately.ca>

Vancouver's missing women group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vancouvermissing>

Holly's Fight for Justice

<http://fightforjustice.blogspot.com/>

"Justice Delayed Is Still Justice"

Highway of Tears

<http://www.highwayoftears.ca>

Please help find our daughter

<http://www.findfran.com>

Sex Trade Workers of Canada

<http://www.sextraderworkersofcanada.com>

Missing & unidentified Victim's organization

<http://www.doenetwork.org/>

Outpost for Hope

<http://www.outpostforhope.org/>

Missing/Murdered Native Women

<http://www.missingnativewomen.org/index.htm>

2 Replies

1. [verna](#)

Feb 25th, 2007 at 11:52 pm

Pauline,

I saw part of the show on CBC and I was in awe of your courage. Thanks for sharing our story. You are a hero. I look forward to reading more of your articles. Thanks again for sharing and showing your courage.

Regards,

Verna



2. [hazel8500](#)

Feb 26th, 2007 at 12:08 pm

Hi Verna! If you would like to contact Pauline directly you can visit her Orato.com pages here...

<http://www.orato.com/?q=user/1833>

I am sure she would love to hear from you!

Peace and Love

Hazel.

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8500

was just a number I picked out of thin air. It was an attempt to get around the whole I'm sorry that user name has been taken, ordeal. Hazel is my namesake.

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