

Is this yet another tragic example of a teen being driven into the streets because of fear of the CAS and the fear of being apprehended by force by CAS workers and the police? Teens have reported having lost all respect for authorities after being continually denied their right to live with or to associate with members of their own families as a result of the actions of overzealous and malicious CAS workers and children's lawyers. Teens have reported having doors broken down by police in order to force them back to the control of CAS workers where they were being abused and threatened.

the BRAMPTON  
GUARDIAN.com

# Family wants to see missing teen

Grandparents don't know if she's dead or alive

PAM DOUGLAS

Dec 28, 2005



There was an empty chair and tears at the Beaudet family dinner table Christmas day.

Danielle Beaudet, 16, hasn't been seen or heard from for more than a year, and her grandparents say the pain of missing her never goes away, but is that much more intense during the holidays.

"We were so hoping she would call at Christmas, but nothing yet," Gayle Beaudet, 58, said this week.

Christmas came and went without a phone call, and the heartbreak of not knowing where their teenage granddaughter is weighs heavily on

Gayle and her husband, Luke.

"I miss her so much," said Gayle Beaudet. "Anything I look at, a picture, a little stuffed Christmas dog with antlers that was hers. It's very hard to describe how you feel. I try to put it to the back of my mind, but you can't."

Danielle is a chronic runaway, but she has never been gone so long. Peel police say she is streetwise, but they are concerned for her safety and want to know that she is okay.

"It is very scary. I know that there is a street family out there, they do watch out for each other, but still, it's not comforting enough," Gayle Beaudet said.

Danielle was 14 years old and a ward of the Peel Children's Aid Society when she slipped away during a shopping trip in August 2004. Between the ages of 12 and 14, she had run away 19 times, but always returned home or contacted family members. Before now, her longest absence was four months, according to police.

She is no longer a ward of the CAS, and the only thing the police want is to know that she is all right.

"Danielle, please come home," Gayle Beaudet said this week as she choked back tears. "We really miss you."

"I just want her back. So much has happened we have to tell her..."

"I want her to know that I'm sorry I sent her back," she said, referring to a time when Danielle

wasn't obeying the rules and her grandmother turned her back over to the CAS. She said as long as Danielle obeys the few rules her grandparents have, she is welcome to live with them.

"If she has a baby, the baby will come too," Gayle Beaudet said. "This is still her home."

Police and the Beaudets think Danielle may be living on the street, and the only possible sighting in a Scarborough Tim Horton's was of a girl who was pregnant, but that was not a confirmed sighting, according to police.

Her grandparents say they don't care where she has been or if she is pregnant, they just want her back.

"She's still poppa's princess," she said. Her grandfather misses her terribly, she said, and wants her to know that she is still a princess to him.

"If she doesn't want to come home, that's fine, we just want her to keep in touch with us," Gayle Beaudet said.

She said she thinks Danielle is afraid to come home because she doesn't want to be sent back into the care of the CAS, but because she is no longer a ward of the CAS, that won't happen. She would be free to stay or leave again, the choice is up to her.

Police confirm that to be the case, and say they just want to know that she is alive and not in any danger.

"We're not interested in returning her anywhere," said Const. Doug Schulz. "It will be her choice.

"This isn't a trick to try get her to come home or come to an address," Schulz said. "She's 16 years old and we just want to make sure she is safe and no harm has come to her."

"We've done an extensive amount of work on (the case) and we're going to continue until we know she is well."

Schulz said Danielle's family just wants to know she is okay, and if they can help her, they will.

"If we can help her in any way, with counselling or any other services she might need, we will," Schulz added. "Hopefully, she can get

her life straightened out and back on track."

"We don't need to know where she is," he said. "We just need to hear from her and get it confirmed by voice that it is her. If she doesn't want to be found, we're not going to force the issue. That's definitely her choice."

Police say they are "reasonably sure" she didn't go missing as a result of foul play, but they don't know if foul play is involved in her continued absence.

They say they have no leads. Danielle has done a good job of disappearing. Child Find has distributed her picture across Canada, on Esso gas station televisions on screens, on flyers, posters and more.

She has strong ties in Brampton, and this is where she usually turns up, but police think she may have left Brampton and believe she could be anywhere in Canada. They are also checking the United States.

"She's a good kid, she really is. She's got a good heart," Gayle Beaudet said.

Every time a dead body is found, Gayle Beaudet worries that it could be Danielle.

"Every time we go out, we look for her," she said. "Every teenager we see that walks like her, we slow right down and have a look at them. We're always looking."

Four months ago, Luke and Gayle received telephone calls they believe were from Danielle. She wouldn't say anything, just listened to what they said and then hung up before a minute had passed. Police and her grandparents think she may have done so because she thought the call might be traced if she stayed on any longer.

The last call came four months ago. Luke Beaudet told her, "You're still my princess. If you want to come home, please come home."

Danielle is white, 5-foot-7, 124 pounds, with a medium build, light wavy shoulder length blonde hair and green eyes.

**Anyone with information is asked to call Peel police Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau at 905-453-3311, ext. 3205, or call Peel Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).**