

Montreal woman hopeful about reunion with daughter missing since 1978

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A Montreal woman whose daughter went missing nearly four decades ago is cautiously optimistic that she might be alive and living in the United States.

Liliane Cyr says she was recently contacted by an American woman who suspects she might be Cyr's long-lost daughter, Yohanna. Yohanna disappeared in 1978, when she was only 18 months old.

The U.S. woman contacted Cyr through a Facebook page dedicated to finding Yohanna. Cyr says the woman told her: "I'm not sure 100 per cent, but I think I am Yohanna."

PHOTOS



Liliane Cyr speaks about her missing daughter, Yohanna.

Cyr has spoken to her potential daughter on the phone and the two remain in daily contact. The American woman is slated to take a DNA test soon, with the results expected back after approximately one month.

Cyr has reason to be hopeful, because the woman knew about a unique birthmark on Yohanna's hand. "It's made like a 'Y,'" Cyr told CTV Montreal. "It's between her two fingers, and nobody knew that." The woman also said she has a dairy allergy – a condition she shares with Cyr.

But Cyr has had her hopes dashed before. In 2014, police told her they received a tip that her daughter's body might be in a metal box buried under a parking lot in Ottawa. Police tore up the parking lot but did not find the box or any remains.

Cyr says she's trying to stay skeptical about the situation because she knows these potential reunions don't always work out. "I think I've got to stay calm," she said.

Pina Arcamone of the Missing Children's Network also recommended caution in the case. "Although these are striking similarities that can explain quite a few things... we have to remain grounded," she said to CTV Montreal.

Cyr says she's preparing herself for both outcomes, but she expects a whole new set of questions if the DNA results come back with a match.

With a report from CTV Montreal