

Montreal mother learns American woman isn't her long-missing daughter

In early August, Liliane Cyr got a message from American woman who believed she could be her daughter

By Kamila Hinkson, [CBC News](#) Posted: Oct 05, 2016 10:03 AM ET Last Updated: Oct 05, 2016 5:19 PM ET

A Montreal mother who was hoping she had found her missing daughter has been dealt a devastating blow, once again.

In August 1978, Liliane Cyr left her 18-month-old daughter Yohanna in the care of a new boyfriend while she went to work in Quebec's North Shore region for a week.

When she returned, Cyr's boyfriend told her he had taken the child to stay with his mother in Boston. Then, he changed his story and said Yohanna had drowned in the tub and he had buried her.

Montreal police arrested the man, a 32-year-old American, at that time. He was later released because police had no evidence he had done anything illegal.

In early August, Cyr got a message through her Facebook group "Find Yohanna Cyr," from an American woman who believed she could be Yohanna.

- [In 1978, her baby disappeared. Now, a Montreal mother may be reconnected with her missing child](#)
- [Search fails to find Yohanna Cyr's remains under St-Laurent parking lot](#)

Cyr and the unnamed woman ordered a DNA test to see if they were a match.

On Wednesday, the Missing Children's Network, which has been working with Cyr, confirmed the results were negative.

"Liliane and her family wish to sincerely thank the public for all the support and outpouring of love that they have received over the past few weeks," the Missing Children's Network said in a statement.

"It has been a source of comfort for the family to know that the entire world was clinging to the hope that Yohanna would finally be home."

In 2011, Montreal police reopened the investigation into Yohanna's disappearance after a woman who lived in the neighbourhood reported she had seen the boyfriend leave the house one evening around midnight, carrying a box.

They scanned a parking lot using a high-tech device and later excavated the site, but the search turned up empty.

Explore CBC

[CBC Home](#)

[TV](#)

[Radio](#)

[News](#)

[Sports](#)

[Music](#)

[Arts](#)

[Kids](#)

[Local](#)

[Documentaries](#)

[Comedy](#)

[Books](#)

[Parents](#)

[Indigenous](#)

[Digital Archives](#)

Stay Connected

[Apps](#)

[RSS](#)

[Podcasts](#)

Services and Information

[Corporate Info](#)

[Public Appearances](#)

[Commercial Services](#)

[Reuse & Permission](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Doing Business with Us](#)

CBC  Radio-Canada

©2016 CBC/Radio-Canada. All rights reserved