

**BY E-MAIL**

March 3, 2023

Shalee Kushnerick  
Associate General Counsel, Litigation  
Legal & Privacy, Alberta Health Services  
Seventh Street Plaza, North Tower, Floor 5  
10030 107 Street  
Edmonton AB T5J 3E4

Dear Madam:

**Subject: Michael Staples – Public Fatality Inquiry  
Response to Recommendations**

---

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Judge R.R.M. Cochard's report to the Minister of Justice regarding the public fatality inquiry into the death of Michael Staples. This report will be publicly released on March 24, 2023. Please do not share the contents of the report in any manner until after this date.

The following recommendations may impact Alberta Health Services ("AHS"):

1. In view of the high number of persons entering Edmonton Remand Centre ("ERC") with addiction issues (50 per cent), all Correctional Officers should receive training on the use and administration of Narcan as well as the signs of a possible overdose.
2. Narcan should be readily available and accessible on each pod at all times, including nighttime to allow for rapid administration in emergencies.
3. Although the Health Information Act contains restrictions on the sharing of information by AHS to Correctional Officers, in view of the inherent dangers of methadone, Correctional Officers should be allowed access to information that an inmate is on methadone so that behaviours and symptoms can both be monitored more closely.
4. The updated Opioid Withdrawal Management Procedure be implemented as soon as it is completed. This will provide AHS staff and prescribers as well as Correctional Officers with an update on the best practices to treat opiate withdrawal.

5. Any individual on the methadone program should be seen and interviewed by a nurse practitioner on a daily basis to monitor for any behavioural and health changes, particularly where the inmate has pre-existing health concerns such as cardiac issues.
6. AHS develop and implement a standardized patient education regarding the uses and dangers of methadone that is more detailed than what is currently available and ensure that the patient understand the risk of methadone usage. The consent to methadone program must be signed by the inmate prior to administration of methadone.
7. I accept Ms. Poshtar's recommendation that a peer health education module specifically designed for provincial correctional centres be designed and implemented. This would also educate inmates to recognize more easily signs of overdose and/or medical distress that may lead to earlier reporting.
8. Mental health and addiction services be increased at correctional institutions to allow more access by inmates to individual and group counselling.

**A request for a response to Recommendation Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 has also been sent to counsel for the Edmonton Remand Centre, Custody Operations Branch.**

I ask that you please advise the following:

1. Whether AHS accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendations;
2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made; and
3. If AHS intends to accept the recommendations, or to implement different measures, what steps will be taken in that regard.

A response to this enquiry is not mandatory. However, be advised that this letter and any response received will be publicly released and posted on the Open Government Portal:

<https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/responses-to-public-fatality-inquiry-recommendations>.

If a response has not been received by July 24, 2023 (four months after the public release date), that information will also be made publicly available.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,

*Abid Mavani*

Abid Mavani  
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator  
Encl – Report of Judge R.R.M. Cochard