



**Report to the Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
Public Fatality Inquiry**

Fatality Inquiries Act

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at the _____ Courthouse
in the _____ Town _____ of _____ Cardston _____, in the Province of Alberta,
(City, Town or Village) (Name of City, Town, Village)
on the 17th day of _____ March _____, 2009 _____, (and by adjournment
year
on the 18th day of _____ March _____, 2009 _____),
year
before _____ The Honourable T.G. Hironaka _____, a Provincial Court Judge,
into the death of _____ SHANNON FAYE REDCROW _____ 30
(Name in Full) (Age)
of _____ 1837 - 6TH Avenue North, Lethbridge, Alberta _____ and the following findings were made:
(Residence)

Date and Time of Death: _____ September 14th, 2006 _____

Place: _____ RR273 5 km South of Highway 505 West, Glenwood, Alberta _____

Medical Cause of Death:

("cause of death" means the medical cause of death according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death as last revised by the International Conference assembled for that purpose and published by the World Health Organization – The Fatality Inquiries Act, Section 1(d)).

Blunt force injuries of neck and chest

Manner of Death:

("manner of death" means the mode or method of death whether natural, homicidal, suicidal, accidental, unclassifiable or undeterminable – The Fatality Inquiries Act, Section 1(h)).

Accidental

Circumstances under which Death occurred:

The decedent was the right rear seat passenger in a stolen vehicle which was being pursued by the Blood Tribe Police. The vehicle left the roadway and hit a dry river embankment.

The other three male passengers who were wearing seatbelts suffered only minor injuries. The seatbelt where the decedent was seated did not appear to be functioning.

There was evidence of alcohol consumption by the occupants of the vehicle and the driver's blood/alcohol level exceeded the legal limit.

Evidence indicates that there was compliance with the Blood Tribe Police policies and procedures, in place at the time, with regard to high speed pursuits.

Recommendations for the prevention of similar deaths:

It is difficult and probably beyond the scope of this inquiry to make any meaningful recommendation for the prevention of similar deaths. It is interesting, however, that since these events, both the Blood Tribe Police and the R.C.M.P. guidelines relative to "PURSUITS" have been revised. The revisions have not made any major changes to protocol or procedure but they appear to remind police officers to thoroughly consider "the need for immediate apprehension versus the level of danger created by the pursuit to the public".

Apparently, police services each have their own policies relative to inter-jurisdictional pursuits, however, police services which border one another, do not typically have agreements in place to address issues of primary responsibility, jurisdiction restrictions and use of support services such as operational communications, canine and air support and other matters of joint concern. Such a process may be useful in preventing deaths such as the one in the instant case.

DATED March 20, 2009,
at Lethbridge, Alberta.

Original signed by

The Honourable T.G. Hironaka
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta