



# Report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Public Fatality Inquiry

*Fatality Inquiries Act*

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at the \_\_\_\_\_ Provincial Court of Alberta

in the \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_, in the Province of Alberta,  
(City, Town or Village) (Name of City, Town, Village)

on the \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ September \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2019 \_\_\_\_\_, (and by adjournment  
year

on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_),  
year

before \_\_\_\_\_ The Honourable R.C. Shaigec \_\_\_\_\_, a Provincial Court Judge,

into the death of \_\_\_\_\_ Gatsou Gilbert Dasna \_\_\_\_\_ 32 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name in Full) (Age)

of \_\_\_\_\_ St. Paul, Alberta \_\_\_\_\_ and the following findings were made:  
(Residence)

**Date and Time of Death:** \_\_\_\_\_ May 9, 2014 at approximately 1910 hours. \_\_\_\_\_

**Place:** \_\_\_\_\_ St. Therese Health Centre, St. Paul, 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 – *Fatality Inquiries Act*, Section 1(d)).

Multiple gunshot wounds.

### **Manner of Death:**

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

Homicide.

**Circumstances under which Death occurred:**

One Inquiry was conducted into the deaths of Gatsou Gilbert Dasna and John Carlos Quadros.

The following witnesses testified at the Inquiry.

- (1) RCMP Constable Shane Visser – first officer involved in the pursuit of John Quadros.
- (2) RCMP Sergeant James Morton – senior officer coordinating the pursuit of John Quadros.
- (3) Michael Purvis – eyewitness to the exchange of gunfire between John Quadros and RCMP officers at the 48 Street and 50 Avenue intersection in St. Paul.
- (4) RCMP Constable Trevor Schmidt – first officer to attend at the St. Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral rectory where Gatsou Dasna had been shot.
- (5) Christopher Lindop – supervisor at the RCMP Northern Alberta Operational Communications Centre (NAOOC)
- (6) RCMP Sergeant Patrick Frey – Major Crimes Unit officer who participated in the investigation into the deaths of Gatsou Dasna and John Quadros.
- (7) RCMP Staff Sergeant Luis Gandolfi – supervising officer who testified about RCMP policies regarding police pursuits, active shooters, and tactical training.
- (8) Sergeant Blaine Kobeluck – expert in RCMP use of force protocols and procedures.
- (9) Dr. Graeme Dowling – medical examiner who performed the autopsy on Gatsou Dasna,
- (10) Brittany Dixon – EMS attendant who provided medical care to Gatsou Dasna.

In addition, I have read the 509 pages of exhibits filed by Inquiry Counsel, which consisted of the following: police notes and reports; RCMP policy documents regarding police pursuits, active shooters, and use of force training; civilian witness statements; photographs and diagrams; medical notes and reports; and transcripts of emergency/911 calls.

The following events all occurred on May 9, 2014, in St. Paul, Alberta, unless otherwise stated.

At approximately 1702 hours John Quadros was recorded on a surveillance camera leaving his residence in St. Paul. He was armed with a shotgun, and was carrying several additional gun cases. Earlier that day, Mr. Quadros had argued with family members, and had made statements about killing himself.

At some point prior to 1755 hours, Mr. Quadros travelled to the rectory at the back of the St. Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral, located at 4625 – 50 Avenue.

Father Dasna was a parish priest at the Cathedral, and he lived at the rectory.

There is no evidence that John Quadros knew Father Dasna. Subsequent police investigation did reveal however, that Mr. Quadros harboured general animosity toward government, police, and organized religion.

There were no eyewitnesses to the events that occurred at the Church rectory. However, based upon all of the evidence gathered, it is believed that John Quadros attended at the north door of the residence. Father Dasna's practice was to open the door to anyone who knocked. John Quadros then shot Father Dasna several times at close range. Nine expended .22 caliber casings were found at the church rectory. These casings were later confirmed to have been fired from a firearm found in Mr. Quadros' possession later that same day.

At 1755 hours Father Dasna called 911. This call was transferred by the 911 operator to the RCMP Northern Alberta Operational Communications Centre (NAOCC), which is located in Edmonton. Father Dasna was in medical distress, and was barely able to speak. He reported that he had been shot, however, he was unable to provide his name, address, or general location. The call was then somehow disconnected by Father Dasna.

After this brief call, the 911 operator contacted St. Paul Emergency Medical Services (EMS). EMS was advised to be ready to respond to a shooting victim once a location was known, and once it was deemed safe by police for EMS to attend.

At almost this exact moment (1755 hours), John Quadros drove a black pick-up truck through the west portion of the parking lot at the St. Paul RCMP detachment. Mr. Quadros fired a number of shots from a gun at the police station, and then drove out of sight.

RCMP officers James Morton, Shane Visser, and Guy Lapointe, immediately left the detachment in three separate marked police vehicles, and began searching for this truck.

The NAOCC operator was now monitoring and assisting police in the search for this truck, while also attempting to re-initiate telephone contact with Father Dasna.

Two minutes later (1757 hours) Cst. Shane Visser spotted the black truck travelling toward him on 45 Street, just north of 48 Avenue. As Cst. Visser passed the truck, he saw that the driver (later confirmed to be John Quadros) had a shotgun, and that he was pointing this weapon out of his driver side window. Cst. Visser performed a U-turn and proceeded eastbound on 48 Avenue, attempting to catch up to the truck. However, Mr. Quadros had now turned out of sight.

As Cst. Visser approached the 42 Street intersection, he saw that the suspect vehicle had stopped, and that John Quadros was pointing a gun at him. Cst. Visser slammed on his brakes as Mr. Quadros started to fire shots at the officer. The first bullet hit the police vehicle. The second bullet struck Cst. Visser in the left hand.

As Cst. Visser reported over the police radio that he had been shot, he again began to pursue this black truck. However, upon seeing that other police officers had now entered into the area and joined in this pursuit, Cst. Visser disengaged, and drove to the hospital.

As the above events were occurring, the NAOCC operator continued with efforts (at 1758, 1759, and 1800 hours) to re-initiate contact with Father Dasna. However, these phone calls went directly to Father Dasna's voice mail.

The Inquiry evidence revealed that the NAOCC operator had the ability to "ping" the call location for Father Dasna's cell phone. However, the pinging of a call provides police with only general area information, or a zone, from which the call is being made. Because this type of information can be imprecise, the practice of NAOCC/911 operators was/is to continue with efforts to speak directly to the 911 caller, in order to determine his/her exact location as quickly as possible.

## Report – Page 4 of 7

The next police contact with John Quadros was almost immediate (at 1800 hours) as he was seen driving directly toward Cpl. Morton west on 50 Avenue in the eastbound lane. Mr. Quadros was driving on the wrong side of the road. As Mr. Quadros accelerated, Cpl. Morton swerved to avoid a head-on collision. Cpl. Morton then immediately turned around and broadcast that he was engaging in a pursuit.

This pursuit was very short in duration (less than one minute) and did not involve any police vehicles travelling at high rates of speeds.

RCMP Cst. Tammy Protasiwich, who had been monitoring the above events on her police radio, parked her police vehicle, with the emergency lights activated, in the middle of the intersection of 48 Street and 50 Avenue. She did this in an effort to block traffic.

Within seconds, John Quadros drove into this intersection and rammed into Cst. Protasiwich's vehicle. Both vehicles were immobilized as a result of this collision, and Cst. Protasiwich was pinned in her police cruiser, with both of her legs badly injured.

Cpl. Morton was the first of the pursuing police officers to arrive at this intersection. He arrived within seconds of the above collision. As Cpl. Morton stopped, Mr. Quadros immediately shot at him. This shot hit the front windshield of Cpl. Morton's vehicle. The spray of glass from the windshield struck Cpl. Morton in the face, causing him to believe that he too had been shot.

Within seconds, RCMP officers Lapointe, Cameron and Stranger arrived at the intersection. Gunfire was exchanged between police and John Quadros. No one was struck by these bullets.

Just prior to the above events occurring, Michael Purvis was driving toward the 48 Street and 50 Avenue intersection. Mr. Purvis saw that a police vehicle was blocking the intersection, so he pulled over. Almost immediately, Mr. Purvis then saw the black truck driven by John Quadros drive directly into Cst. Protasiwich's vehicle. Mr. Purvis exited from his car, thinking that someone may need assistance. He then heard a gunshot, and saw that Mr. Quadros was firing a shotgun or rifle. Mr. Purvis ran to the rear of his vehicle, and watched as Mr. Quadros continued to shoot several rounds in the direction of the police officers who had arrived at the scene.

Mr. Purvis then witnessed John Quadros shoot himself in the head.

As the above events were occurring, the NAOCC operator was able (at 1801 hours) to again re-initiate telephone contact with Father Dasna. However, the ensuing conversation was brief. Father Dasna was barely able to speak, and could not provide any additional information.

At 1802 hours the NAOCC operator began receiving reports that John Quadros had shot himself.

At the same time (1802 hours) the operator was able to re-initiate telephone contact with Father Dasna. However, again the call was short. Father Dasna's voice was faint, and his speech was unintelligible.

As of 1802 hours, the RCMP officers at the 48 Street and 50 Avenue intersection did not know whether or not Mr. Quadros was dead, or merely wounded, and they did not know whether or not he continued to pose a risk to police and the public. Accordingly, police executed a high risk take down, and ultimately extracted Mr. Quadros from his vehicle.

Mr. Quadros was wearing body armor, and firearms were seen in his vehicle.

Police now determined that he was deceased.

As the above events were occurring, the NAOCC operator called for ambulances to attend at the intersection of 48 Street and 50 Avenue, as the reports received were that Mr. Quadros had shot himself, and that Cst. Protasiwich was badly injured.

At 1804 hours the NAOCC operator was able to re-initiate contact with Father Dasna. During the ensuing conversation, which took place over several minutes, Father Dasna provided his location as being 4625 – 50 Avenue.

At 1813 hours a RCMP K-Division member in Edmonton communicated over the radio that a St. Paul RCMP officer(s) needed to attend at 4625 - 50 Avenue. As the K-Division member stated: “EMS is staging. We have an injured male there and they won’t attend until you ... clear it. Can you free up a member to get over there?”

RCMP Constable Trevor Schmidt, who had been conducting traffic patrol approximately 20 minutes from the Town of St. Paul, heard all of the above events transpiring over his police radio (starting with John Quadros shooting at the police detachment at 1755 hours). Cst. Schmidt had travelled back to St. Paul, as quickly as he could, with his emergency lights and siren activated. As he approached the town limits, Cst. Schmidt heard the above 1813 hours radio transmission from K-Division. He asked for confirmation of the address, and tasked himself with attending at that location.

However, Cst. Schmidt initially had some difficulty locating this address, as unbeknownst to police the actual location searched for was the rectory, which was set back a considerable distance from 4625 – 50 Avenue, which is where the Cathedral was/is located.

At 1821 hours Cst. Schmidt located the church rectory. He found Father Dasna lying in the doorway of his home. A cell phone was on the ground next to him, and he had been shot.

Cst. Schmidt broadcast to EMS to “come to the church parking lot, you’ll see my vehicle.”

RCMP officers Cst. Henry and Cpl. Kuehn were next to arrive. Cst. Henry had been trained as a paramedic, so he assumed care of Father Dasna. At this point Cst. Schmidt entered into the rectory to ensure that no one else was present, or injured, and that the crime scene was safe.

At 1825 hours EMS attended at the scene. The paramedics found Cst. Henry providing care to Father Dasna. EMS personnel assumed care of Father Dasna at 1827 hours, and left the scene at 1836, arriving at the hospital at 1841 hours.

Father Dasna was pronounced dead at 1910 hours by Dr. Margaretha Senekal.

The autopsy in relation to John Quadros was conducted by Dr. Mitchell Weinberg on May 13, 2014. This examination revealed that death was caused by a small-calibre gunshot wound to the right side of the head, which entered the skull and passed through the brain. The nature of the entrance of the wound, the associated internal injuries, and the deformed bullet recovered within the head, were all indicative of a small-calibre weapon, and were not consistent with the larger calibre weapons used by the RCMP officers involved in this incident. There were no additional gunshot wounds present on the body, and no other injuries that contributed to the death.

Toxicology results for drugs and/or alcohol consumption were negative.

Dr. Weinberg’s conclusion was that John Quadros died as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound of the head.

The autopsy for Father Dasna was conducted by Dr. Graeme Dowling on May 13, 2014. There were five entrance gunshot wounds. Three of these wounds were perforating gunshot injuries to the head, the front of the abdomen, and the right forearm. The additional two wounds were penetrating gunshot injuries of the trunk, with the entrance wounds being located over the right side of Father Dasna's back. The bullet pathways associated with these wounds produced injuries of the right lung, a blood vessel beneath the right collar bone (the right subclavian vein), and a blood vessel in the neck (the right internal carotid artery). These two penetrating gunshot wounds resulted in significant internal bleeding.

The injuries suffered were so serious that Dr. Dowling explained that even if Father Dasna had been shot in the emergency ward of the University of Alberta Hospital, a trained vascular surgeon, who was both immediately available and fully aware of the nature and extent of the injuries, would only have had minutes to attempt to save his life.

Dr. Dowling concluded that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds, and that the manner of death was homicide.

**Recommendations for the prevention of similar deaths:**

There are no recommendations that I am able to make that could prevent similar deaths.

DATED September 24, 2019,

at St. Paul, Alberta.

*"R.C. Shaigec"*

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R.C. Shaigec  
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta