

REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PUBLIC INQUIRY
THE FATALITY INQUIRIES ACT

CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at the Provincial Court of Alberta
in the City (City, Town, etc.) of Calgary (Name of City, Town, etc.)
on the 21st day of June, 1991 (and by adjournment
on the 17th day of July, 1991), before
A. P. Demong, a Provincial Court Judge.

A jury was was not summoned and an Inquiry was held into the death of
Robina Hunter (Name in Full) 76 (Age)
of the City of Calgary (Residence) and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death 28th January 1991 between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.
Place 19th Street and 14th Avenue North West, Calgary

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))

extensive internal injuries

Manner of Death ("manner of death" means the mode or method of death whether natural, homicidal, suicidal, accidental or undeterminable — The Fatality Inquiries Act, Section 1(g))

accidental

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED

Mrs. Hunter approached the Light Rail Transit loading platform situated at 19th Street and 14th Avenue North West from the north to cross the westbound track to the south track to board the eastbound C-Train.

She attempted to cross the north track when she was struck by a westbound train on the north track. That contact caused her death.

Witnesses stated that the warning lights and bells were operating as she stepped onto the track. The operator of that train stated he sounded the alarm system of the train and braked immediately upon seeing her step through the gate about 10 or 12 feet in front of the train.

Mrs. Hunter was in excellent physical condition and was on her way to attend an aerobics class. She was, in fact, 76 years old although one witness estimated her age at 45 years and another witness estimated her to be 66 years of age.

She had slight hearing impairment and occasionally wore a hearing aid but no one knows if she was wearing it that day.

The train approached at 45 kilometres per hour, the proper speed provided in the regulations at that time. The lights and bells were working in the correct manner and visibility was good although the weather that day was very cold and windy.

The stopping distance of the train was consistent with the braking system being in good order.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS:

This Court has no recommendation to prevent another occurrence of this nature, as the Safety Committee of the Light Rail Transit system has already changed the approach speed from 45 kilometres per hour to 30 kilometres per hour.

The Safety Committee is seriously considering the use of a magnetic gate which locks on the approach of a train entering upon the tracks but has a push bar enabling exit from the tracks to avoid being trapped in the event of the approach of a train while on the tracks.

To the layman this has the appearance of a good system but may create a hazard when the approaches are crowded.

That Committee is also considering a descending barrier; building a pedestrian overpass or tunnels underneath the tracks.

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CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED

(See attached page)

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

(See attached page)

No. of additional pages attached 1

DATED this 17th day of July 1991


A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta