

December 12, 2023

Sent via email: [Abid.Mavani@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Abid.Mavani@gov.ab.ca)

Mr. Abid Mavani  
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator  
Legal Services Division, Alberta Justice  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Peace Hills Trust,  
10011-109 Street  
Edmonton AB T5J 3S8

Dear Mr. Mavani:

RE: Briella Johanne Brooks – Public Fatality Inquiry Response to Recommendation

Thank you for the correspondence on the recommendation that Honourable Justice J.J. Moher provided that has an impact on the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The recommendation is as follows:

First, it is recommended the OCME and the associated Toxicology Laboratory be adequately resourced given current and anticipated drug poisoning deaths investigated by the OCME in Alberta to provide timely drug screening test results and/or toxicology results for unexplained deaths to families and police agencies. This will ensure prompt investigation of drug related deaths as well as hopefully increase public awareness of the risk and consequences to any child exposed to illegal drugs.

I am writing to advise that the OCME will accept this recommendation; the recommendation is aligned with our intention to provide high quality and timely service for grieving Albertans, for the deceased in our care, and for the criminal justice system.

We will continue to work with the Ministry of Justice to champion specific resourcing requirements. While Budget 2023 included a significant investment in the OCME, we continue to look at how best to support the critical functions, including toxicology services, the office provides to Albertans.

My office will also continue working with Alberta Mental Health and Addiction regarding the opioid issue, including thorough data sharing which helps inform regular opioid surveillance reports.

Yours truly,

*Original Signed*

✓ /  
Dr. Akmal Coetzee-Khan  
Chief Medical Examiner

cc: Susanne Stushnoff, Acting Deputy Minister, Alberta Justice  
[susanne.stushnoff@gov.ab.ca](mailto:susanne.stushnoff@gov.ab.ca)