

November 20, 2023

BY E-MAIL

Dr. Thambirajah Balachandra, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
7007 116 Street
Edmonton AB T6H 5Z2

Dear Sir:

**Subject: Briella Johanne Brooks – Public Fatality Inquiry
Response to Recommendation**

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Justice J.J. Moher's report to the Minister of Justice regarding the public fatality inquiry into the death of Briella Johanne Brooks. This report will be publicly released on December 11, 2023. Please do not share the contents of the report in any manner that would cause it to become available publicly prior to this time.

The following recommendation from Justice Moher's report may impact the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME):

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 ask that you please advise the following:

1. Whether the OCME accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendation;
2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made; and

3. If the OCME intends to accept the recommendation, 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 April 11, 2024 (four months from the public release date of Justice Moher's report), 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 Justice J.J. Moher

Cc Ms. Nancy Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Chief Medical Examiner
Dr. Craig Chatterton, Chief Toxicologist