

March 18, 2022

BY E-MAIL

Dale McFee
Edmonton Police Service
9620 103A Avenue
Edmonton AB T5H 0H7

Dear Chief McFee:

**Subject: Cst. Daniel Woodall – Public Fatality Inquiry
Response to Recommendations**

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Judge G.B. Lepp's report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. This report will be publicly released on April 8, 2022.

The following recommendation made by His Honour may impact the Edmonton Police Service:

1. **It is therefore my recommendation** that the EPS make a small change to the Search Warrant Execution Planning and Reference Guide.

When an EPS member determines that entry to a dwelling is an option for effecting an arrest, the Guide walks the member through all conceivable risks including those highlighted in this report. The member must check off whether each risk exists and describe it. This serves a two-fold purpose. First, it ensures that all relevant risks are considered and described. Second, it ensures that all risks have been communicated to senior members who have oversight responsibility.

I recommend that the Guide should include a section dealing with alternatives to the entry of the dwelling to effect the arrest. That section would ask whether alternatives exist and what they are. Considering the two-fold purpose of the Guide, such an inclusion would remind the member to

consider those alternatives and it would also allow the supervising senior member to provide informed direction in consideration of those alternatives.

2. **It is also my recommendation** that the “Lawful Entry to a Dwelling House to Effect an Arrest Procedure” be amended to provide that entry should not be sought where less invasive alternatives to arrest reasonably exist. The Policy should also remind the reader that the option of such an alternative should be explored not only before initially considering entry to a dwelling but throughout the process of execution, in case the risks of entry escalate as they did here.
3. The EPS and the RCMP did excellent work in the Operational Review. I am not aware whether its conclusions were drawn to the attention of other policing agencies in the province. If they have not, they should be.

I ask that you please advise the following:

1. Whether the Edmonton Police Service accepts, accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendations;
2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made; and
3. If the Edmonton Police Service intends to accept the recommendations, 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 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 August 8, 2022, 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

cc Martine Sallaberry – Counsel for EPS – by e-mail