

Memorandum

FROM: Malcolm Lavoie, KC
Deputy Minister of Justice

OUR FILE REFERENCE: AR 60412

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

TO: Donavon Young
Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations
10th Floor, Forestry Building

DATE: July 22, 2024

TELEPHONE: 780-427-5032

SUBJECT: **Request for a Response to Recommendation – JRA Fatality Inquiry**

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Justice J.B. Champion's report to the Minister of Justice regarding the public fatality inquiry into the death of JRA. This report will be publicly released on July 24, 2024. 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 may impact Indigenous Relations. These recommendations are copied below, verbatim, from Justice Champion's report:

4.1 I therefore recommend that the government of the province of Alberta use all its good offices and influence to encourage all levels of government in Canada to determine how to actually engage in meaningful discourse, concrete decision-making, and action plans to improve the plight of the indigenous youth in Canada who are facing life-threatening mental health crises. This may take place in the context of a royal commission, a public inquiry, or some other suitable process, but indecision and procrastination will not do. I urge the government of Alberta to push strongly for this process to be begin in earnest and to do so immediately. I leave it to cabinet to decide how best to highlight and emphasize this issue with their counterparts.

A request for a response to this recommendation has also been sent to the Deputy Minister of Mental Health and Addiction.

I ask that you please advise the following:

1. Whether Indigenous Relations accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendation.
2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made.
3. If Indigenous Relations intends to accept the recommendation, or to implement different measures, what steps will be taken in that regard.

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A response to this enquiry is not mandatory. However, be advised that this memorandum 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>.

Please email Indigenous Relations' response to the Fatality Inquiry Coordinator Abid Mavani, at abid.mavani@gov.ab.ca. If a response has not been received by November 25, 2024 (four months from the public release date of Justice Champion's report), that information will also be made publicly available.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Original Signed

Malcolm Lavoie, KC

Attachment

cc: Abid Mavani, Fatality Inquiry Coordinator