

**REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PUBLIC INQUIRY**

THE FATALITY INQUIRIES ACT

CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at Provincial Court

in the City of Edmonton
(City, Town, etc.) (Name of City, Town, etc.)

on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd day of June, 19 92 (and by adjournment
on the 15th day of June, 19 92), before

His Honour Judge J.B. Ritchie, a Provincial Court Judge.

A jury was was not summoned and an Inquiry was held into the death of

ALEXANDER JOHN SKOREIKO 86 years
(Name in Full) (Age)

of 4701-54A Street, Vegreville, Alberta and the following findings were made:
(Residence)

Date and Time of Death 1:13 a.m. November 18, 1991

Place ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, Edmonton, Alberta

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))

HANGING

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))

SUICIDE

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURED

SEE ATTACHED

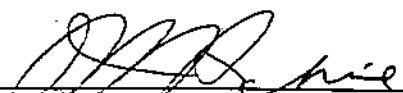
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

SEE ATTACHED

No. of additional pages attached 2

DATED this 22nd day of June, 1992


J.B. Ritchie, A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED

This 86 year old suspended driver entered the Vegreville Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment on November 16, 1991 in an apparent attempt to retrieve an operator's licence of a learner's category which had been seized from him a week earlier and after confronting Constable Lydom, the investigating officer, he drew a fully loaded Smith and Wesson 38 calibre revolver. Constable Lydom heroically dived across the counter and managed to get his index finger behind the hammer of the weapon preventing it from being cocked and fired.

It took four officers to subdue Skoreiko and to release his "death grip" on the weapon. One officer had no success in placing his thumbs in Skoreiko's eyes and striking him with short punches to the right temple. He was also punched in the groin and eventually handcuffed after exhibiting inordinate strength for his age. He suffered a right forehead swelling and laceration which required three sutures at St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville.

He was eventually taken to the Edmonton Remand Centre, arriving at approximately 10:40 p.m. where he was seen by Nurse Maltby and placed in a cell in the medical section.

The attending doctor at St. Joseph's hospital was concerned primarily with the fact that Skoreiko was a head injury patient and because of this he required regular monitoring. However, nearly everyone was also aware that there was a possibility of suicide, not from any direct information or indication, but rather from the bizarre circumstances late that afternoon at the R.C.M.P. detachment. Constable Lydom, for instance, felt the man was about to shoot him and then perhaps turn the gun on himself. Corporal Sharek placed the word suicidal in quotation marks on the C13 form or Prisoner Report in the area labelled "Medication required, unusual characteristics, distinguishing mark etc.". The Remand Centre admitting people as well were aware of the circumstances surrounding the charges against Skoreiko, some feeling that this

Circumstances Under Which Death Occurred

Re: Skoreiko (Continued..)

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accused perhaps had a death wish in doing what he had done.

The fact of the matter was, however, that Skoreiko was exhibiting no actual suicidal indications and Nurse Maltby uncovered none. He was placed in the medical area as opposed to the mental health section. He committed suicide the next morning by means of the issue footwear laces and the cell sink faucet.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

I am of the opinion that in the case of every inmate admitted to the Remand Centre a copy of the C13 Prisoner Report form, in addition to accompanying the warrant and the inmate's property, should accompany the Comis Report which is prepared on the inmate and forwarded to the nurse. This C13 form, additional copies of which appear to be routinely made, should not be referred to as the Prisoner's Property Report. It is a Prisoner Report and as such is of much greater importance than a document simply listing and accounting for the inmate's personal effects.