



**Report to the Minister of Justice  
and Solicitor General  
Public Fatality Inquiry**

*Fatality Inquiries Act*

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at the \_\_\_\_\_ Court House  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Fort McMurray \_\_\_\_\_, in the Province of Alberta,  
(City, Town or Village) (Name of City, Town, Village)  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ 5<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ May \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2014 \_\_\_\_\_, (and by adjournment  
year  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ 16<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ October \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2014 \_\_\_\_\_),  
year  
before \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Jacques \_\_\_\_\_, a Provincial Court Judge,  
into the death of \_\_\_\_\_ Ahmad Abdallah \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name in Full) (Age)  
of \_\_\_\_\_ Fort McMurray, Alberta \_\_\_\_\_ and the following findings were made:  
(Residence)

**Date and Time of Death:** \_\_\_\_\_ Around 3:30 A.M. on March 16, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**Place:** \_\_\_\_\_ 10126 MacDonald Avenue, Fort McMurray, 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)).

Gunshot and shotgun wounds

**Manner of Death:**

("manner of death" means the mode or method of death whether natural, homicidal, suicidal, accidental, unclassifiable or undeterminable – *The Fatality Inquiries Act*, Section 1(h)).

Homicidal

**Circumstances under which Death occurred:**

In the early morning hours of March 16, 2011 the deceased Mr. Abdallah was a visitor in the apartment of A.T. and G.A. He was argumentative and refused to take off his shoes when asked by G.A. to do so. Another guest, R.P., urged him to show respect, whereupon Mr. Abdallah produced a handgun and pointed it at R.P., telling him to “shut the fuck up” and saying “I could hurt you”. A.T., frightened, left the apartment, but then returned because she had forgotten her phone. She locked herself in the bathroom and called 911. While she was on the phone with the emergency operator, Mr. Abdallah discharged the pistol twice into the floor. These shots were audible on the emergency recording.

Police were dispatched to the apartment with great rapidity and arrived within minutes. They were initially advised that it was a firearms complaint, but around the time of their arrival at the building the dispatcher received and conveyed the further information that shots had been fired. The officers, aware now that they were certainly dealing with a real firearm and that there was imminent danger to human life, determined to go in forthwith. Cst. Murray armed himself with a shotgun. The remaining officers were carrying their 9 mm pistols. No entrance code being readily available, Cst. Marshall broke the glass door with the butt of his shotgun and entered the building, followed by Cst. Curnew, Cst. Murray, Cst. Gibson and Cst. Doe.

They proceeded down a hallway toward the apartment. There was a short wall projecting into the hallway that created a blind corner which partially blocked Cst. Marshall's view down the hall. As he passed the wall, Cst. Marshall noticed Mr. Abdallah in the corner, holding a beer in his left hand. Almost immediately, Mr. Abdallah raised a pistol and fired at Cst. Marshall. Cst. Marshall returned fire with his shotgun, discharging one shell which struck Mr. Abdallah on the left side. He saw Mr. Abdallah fire again. He saw Mr. Abdallah turn as he fell. One of Mr. Abdallah's shots struck and seriously wounded Cst. Curnew. The bullet entered her left buttock and exited through her right thigh. Although wounded, Cst. Curnew also returned fire, shooting her pistol once and striking Mr. Abdallah in the back of the chest. Both the shotgun wound and the pistol wound would have been rapidly fatal to Mr. Abdallah. Although the officer was not aware of it at the time, one of Mr. Abdallah's bullets struck and was stopped by Cst. Marshall's radio. Were it not for the presence of the radio, it appears likely that Cst. Marshall would also have been struck by a bullet. Mr. Abdallah also discharged a third round, which did not strike anyone and was found in an adjacent vacant apartment.

Toxicology results from Mr. Abdallah's autopsy indicate the presence of alcohol in his blood at a concentration of 80 mg/100 ml. His blood and liver also showed the presence of high levels of methamphetamine, as well as its breakdown product, amphetamine.

The pistol used by Mr. Abdallah was a 9 mm Glock which had been modified to hold 17 rounds. There were still four rounds in the gun at the close of the incident.

**Recommendations for the prevention of similar deaths:**

In my view, the officers involved in this incident did precisely what they should have done under the circumstances. They responded promptly, intelligently and bravely to a potentially life-threatening situation. It is not unlikely that Cst. Marshall and Cst. Curnew saved not only their own lives, but those of their fellow officers by reacting rapidly and accurately to a deadly threat.

I therefore have no recommendations.

DATED November 5, 2014,

at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

*"J.R. Jacques"*

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James R. Jacques  
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta