REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PUBLIC INQUIRY
THE FATALITY INQUIRIES ACT

CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at the Provincial Court of Alberta

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

on the 31st day of March, 1993 (and by adjournment

on the _____ day of _____, 19____), before

S. M. BENSLER, a Provincial Court Judge.

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

[redacted] (Name in Full) [redacted] (Age)

of 140 Winchester Cres. S.W., Calgary (Residence) and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death January 3, 1993 approximately 7:00 P.M.

Place 140 Winchester Crescent S.W., Calgary, 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))

Hanged

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))

Suicidal

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CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH occurred

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

I have no recommendations as to the prevention of similar deaths.

Nothing more could have been done in this case to prevent [redacted]

[redacted] from taking his own life.

No. of additional pages attached 0

DATED this 2nd day of April, 19 93.

A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta

S. M. BENSLER

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED

[redacted] the deceased, was on a temporary release permit from the Strathmore Youth Centre to stay with his mother. [redacted] at the time of his death on January 3, 1993.

[redacted] was released from the Centre on Friday, January 1, 1993 and was to return on Sunday, January 3, 1993.

[redacted] gave evidence that her son was previously suicidal, due to his drug and alcohol consumption in the past. [redacted] had been to treatment centres in the United States on two occasions and had done quite well. In fact in January of 1992, he himself asked to attend the centre for a second time. Unfortunately, [redacted] was not as satisfied the second time he attended and discharged himself.

He continued to live at home with his Mom and two brothers after that incident. In October of 1993, [redacted] was convicted of robbery in Youth Court and received nine months in the open custody facility at Strathmore.

The Director of the Youth Centre, the Nurse, and [redacted] "Key Worker" from the Youth Centre all stated that they were aware of [redacted] problems with suicide. His file warned he had a Suicide Record and they were all alerted to that fact. [redacted] which in custody continued, under supervision, to take his medication, Prozac, as directed by the Strathmore Youth Centre Nurse. They kept in contact with [redacted] regularly, in particular after each home visit, to see if she had any concerns regarding his state of mind. She did not. They all kept an eye

out for any behavioural problems that would give them concerns. None of these problems ever surfaced while [redacted] was in their care. To the contrary, [redacted] was said to be a model young person. Because of the trust he instilled in the workers, [redacted] was allowed to work in the Strathmore Community on what they call a Work Crew. There is no supervision in this program through the Government, so a youth has to have a considerable amount of trustworthiness to get into this system. [redacted] had that trust from all of his workers.

All of the workers that gave evidence said that [redacted] would have been one of the last kids you would expect to have committed suicide. He exhibited none of the symptoms you would expect to see in a depressed or angry adolescent.

[redacted] Mom gave evidence that [redacted] came home on Friday, as usual, for his weekend pass. They had just spent a fair bit of time together at Christmas, so she had no worries about him. She saw nothing unusual in his behaviour. [redacted] went to work on Sunday, January 3, 1993 at approximately 3 P.M. She left [redacted] home with his nine year old brother.

[redacted] phoned home on numerous occasions to see if everything was alright. It appeared that [redacted] was upset about getting his hair cut. They had a minor disagreement about the hair cut and friends being over, but nothing unusual or serious was said.

At 4:20 [redacted] phoned home. Her young son said that [redacted] had gone and he was alone in the home. [redacted]

went home and discovered that [redacted] had hung himself in the basement of their home. She dialled 911 and took him down from the position she found him. She could tell at that point that he was dead.

When the Paramedics arrived [redacted] had no life signs whatsoever.

The Toxicology Report indicated no sign of alcohol or drugs in [redacted] urine or blood.

[redacted] had seen no signs of suicidal tendencies in [redacted]