

**REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
PUBLIC INQUIRY  
THE FATALITY INQUIRIES ACT**

CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at LAW COURTS - PHASE II, COURTROOM #448  
in the CITY of EDMONTON  
(City, Town, etc.) (Name of City, Town, etc.)  
on the 9th day of APRIL, A.D., 1992 (and by adjournment  
on the 10th day of APRIL, A.D., 1992 ), before  
JUDGE LIONEL L. JONES, a Provincial Court Judge.

A jury  was  was not summoned and an Inquiry was held into the death of  
ERWIN HARRISON ADAMS 29 years  
(Name in Full) (Age)  
of 11016 - 151 Street, Edmonton and the following findings were made:  
(Residence)

Date and Time of Death 27 FEBRUARY, 1991 at 4:26 A.M.  
Place MISERICORDIA 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))

Sequelae of gunshot wound of the abdomen - (major infections ensued from the damage done by passage of a single bullet (38 caliber) through the abdomen passing through the duodenum and the end of one kidney and causing the pancreas to discharge digesting substances into surrounding body tissues and organs). Other infections also ensued.

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))

Deceased was shot (one bullet) by a peace officer about 2:30 a.m. - 4 April, 1990, after he lunged twice at the officer while holding a knife in each hand. He never left hospital and died at about 4:26 a.m. - 27 February, 1991, from complications resulting from the shooting and resulting necessary treatment regime. Death was almost 11 (eleven) months after the shooting. Within section 1(9) Fatality Inquiries Act I would call the death "HOMICIDAL".

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CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURED

As described above under "MANNER OF DEATH", Mr. Adams was shot by a Peace Officer as above described. Additional material circumstances are that he was very intoxicated by alcohol (intoxicating liquor), he lunged at the officer from a distance of about 4 or 5 feet distance on each occasion, and he had been threatening members of his family in the same room for several minutes before police arrived pursuant to a telephone call. His actual death ensued almost eleven (11) months later in hospital from a combination of gross infections that were a natural and predictable consequence of the serious injuries that the one 38 caliber bullet had caused.

No. of additional pages attached \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

No specific recommendations are made. I am tempted to suggest that this tragedy might have been avoided had the Peace Officers been equipped with some substance such as Mace, Cap-Stun, or other similar agent. But I do not make a recommendation because in the situation at hand such a suggestion would of necessity require all police officers on duty to have at the ready, continuously, such substances, an obviously impractical approach.

It is clear, in this case, that Adams was out of control. Had the Peace Officers been able to diffuse the particular incident without injury to him, that might have only postponed some later dangerous confrontation between the deceased and members of his family, or friends, or strangers, or Law Enforcement Officers.

After careful consideration, I find myself unable to make any useful recommendation.

No. of additional pages attached \_\_\_\_\_

DATED this 19th day of APRIL, A.D. 1992



A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta  
Judge Lionel L. Jones