

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

**CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**WHEREAS** a Public Inquiry was held at the Court House in the Town of High Prairie in the Province of Alberta on the 29th day of September, 1995 before J.N. GARY MITCHELL, a Provincial Court Judge.

A jury **WAS NOT** summonsed and an Inquiry was held into the death of **DEAN JACOB HEINRICHS**, aged 29 years (date of birth January 19, 1966).

Date of Death: **MARCH 4, 1995**

Place: **HIGH PRAIRIE REGIONAL HOSPITAL, HIGH PRAIRIE, 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))

**STRANGULATION**

Manner of Death ("manner of death" means the mode or method of death whether natural, homicidal, suicidal, accidental or undeterminable -- The Fatalities Inquiries Act, Section 1(g))

**SUICIDAL**

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED:

The deceased apparently hanged himself from the viewing slot in the holding cell door by fitting the seam of his jeans pant leg in a crack in the frame of the slot and tying the other leg around his neck.

As this slot is 5-1/2 feet above the floor, and as the deceased was a taller person, it was a deliberate act caused by his intoxicated state (.350 blood alcohol, plus traces of cannabis and Prozac).

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

As the guards checked the deceased at regular intervals, never exceeding 15 minutes, and as they could see his back through the lower viewing slot, they could not see his neck or head because of the blind spot directly below the upper viewing slot, cells with NO blind spots are recommended. Further, advice should be placed on CPIC when persons with suicidal tendencies have been apprehended, as part of their record. This would assist apprehending officers in the future.

DATED this 2 day of October, 1995.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
A JUDGE OF THE PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA