

**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 Building  
in the Town of Vermilion  
(City, Town, etc.) (Name of City, Town, etc.)  
on the 22nd day of January, 1996 (and by adjournment  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_), before  
Ronald L. Tibbitt, a Provincial Court Judge.

A jury  was  was not summoned and an Inquiry was held into the death of  
Daryl Bradford Pitman 37  
(Name in Full) (Age)

of \_\_\_\_\_ and the following findings were made:  
(Residence)

Date and Time of Death Approx. 3:23 a.m. April 8, 1995

Place Vermilion Health Care Complex, Vermilion, 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))

Death in this case was a result of multiple drug toxicity with idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis being a contributing factor.

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))

This death was as a result of an overdose of disopyramide, a cardiac medication. The manner of death was suicide.

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CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED

Daryl Bradford Pitman had shown suicidal tendencies. His wife and his wife's family had been in contact with the R.C.M.P. As a result of information from the deceased's wife, firearms were removed from the deceased's motor vehicle. The R.C.M.P. were notified by Mrs. Pitman's brother that the deceased appeared to be in very poor mental condition. The R.C.M.P. investigated and attended at the Hotel the deceased was living in. The R.C.M.P. found the deceased in his room with beer and liquor visible as well as a number of medicine bottles. Cpl. Brady observed the deceased and was of the opinion that he was very drunk. The Cpl. was not confident of his opinion so he took the deceased

No. of additional pages attached 1

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

I am satisfied that appropriate steps were taken in this matter and I make no recommendations that would be of assistance in preventing similar deaths.

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

DATED this 1st day of February, 1996

*R.L. Tibbitt*

A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta  
Judge R.L. Tibbitt

**CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED CONTINUED:**

to the Vermilion Health Care Complex where Pitman was admitted to the emergency ward. The purpose of this admission was to have a doctor assess Pitman's condition. Dr. Stuart Hunter was called from home and he conducted an examination of the deceased. The Doctor was informed of the possible consumption of drugs. The Doctor was aware of the particular drugs that the deceased had about him in the hotel. The Doctor decided that Pitman could be lodged in the Vermilion R.C.M.P. cells with a proper and vigilant watch kept on him. The accused was lodged in the Vermilion cells with a proper double watch put in place. The deceased condition deteriorated sometime around 2:20-2:25 a.m., his face became red or purple and his breathing was shallow. The R.C.M.P. called for an ambulance which arrived with a slight delay, perhaps 5 minutes. Pitman was again taken to emergency where the nurses immediately started appropriate steps to save the deceased. Dr. Stuart Hunter returned to the hospital and performed emergency procedures to assist Pitman. These efforts were in vain and Pitman died at 3:23 a.m. on April 8, 1995.