



# Report to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General Public Inquiry

The Fatality Inquiries Act

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at Provincial Court

in the City of Lloydminster  
(City, Town, Village) (Name of City, Town, Village)

on the 26 day of January, 1999, (and by  
year)

adjournment on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, )  
year

before The Honourable Ronald L. Tibbitt, a Provincial Court Judge.

A jury  was  was not summoned and an inquiry was held into the death

of Helen Littlewolfe 44  
(Name in Full) (Age)

of Box 168, Onion Lake, Saskatchewan and the following findings were made:  
(Residence)

Date and Time of Death: May 15, 1998

Place: University of Alberta 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)).

The immediate cause of death was sequelae of Blunt Trauma

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)).

The manner of death is undeterminable. The R.C.M.P. have engaged in an extensive investigation with the suspicion that a homicide was involved.

The investigation has not ended but it has not reached any conclusion.

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Circumstances under which Death occurred:

Please refer to attached sheet - Appendix "A"

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

Recommendations for the prevention of similar deaths:

This report sets out in detail the sad events of May 14 and 15, 1998.

I have reviewed all of the material provided and I can not make any recommendations that would prevent similar deaths in the future.

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

DATED this 5th  
of February, 1999  
year

  
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta

## APPENDIX "A"

Helen Littlewolfe was located in a yard in Lloydminster, Alberta by Constable Robert Campbell, who had been dispatched, because of complaints that an impaired person was in the area. Constable Campbell arrested her and she was placed in protective custody at 07:25. Helen Littlewolfe had poor balance and displayed other signs of intoxication. Constable Campbell, who had dealt with Helen Littlewolfe on previous occasions when she was drunk, advised there was nothing unusual in her behaviour. She had facial injuries and dried blood about her face and on her clothing. Constable Bittorf assisted in placing Helen Littlewolfe in cells and he was of the view there was no need for immediate medical attention. The Matron, Simpson, began to watch Helen Littlewolfe at 8:05. The guarding or observations by Simpson was diligent and carefully recorded.

Helen Littlewolfe slept on the bunk in Cell Number 5 until 12:20. She had rolled over once. During this whole period of time she was completely covered by a blanket. At 12:20, Helen Littlewolfe pulled the blanket back a bit from her face. The matron was immediately concerned as she thought there was something odd or enlarged about Helen Littlewolfe's eye. Helen Littlewolfe sat up and the matron had a brief discussion with her. The matron then left to get assistance as she believed she needed help or back-up to deal with Helen Littlewolfe.

Cpl. Haswell checked Helen Littlewolfe's eyes and ears. Helen Littlewolfe said she thought she should go to the hospital. Haswell advised Littlewolfe that she would be taken to the hospital.

Helen Littlewolfe walked into the hospital at 13:40. I note, approximately one (1) hour had passed from the time Matron Simpson says she noted something wrong with Helen Littlewolfe until she arrived at the hospital.

The first nurse who examined Helen Littlewolfe believed that her eyes were not responding to light. Dr. Crossley examined her at 13:55, at that time he was alerted to the fact that there was a concern about pupil reaction. He observed the pupils and formed the opinion that the pupils were reacting to light but in a sluggish manner. The Doctor ordered x-rays to assist him in his diagnosis. The x-rays disclosed no fractures. The Doctor placed Helen Littlewolfe under observation with examinations to take place at one-half hour intervals. There was no change in Helen Littlewolfe's condition until 16:00, when her pupils did not respond to light and she did not respond, except to painful stimuli. Dr Crossley concluded she had brain contusion and called for an anaesthesiologist to assist in breathing and he called for air evacuation to take her to a hospital where neurosurgery could be performed, if necessary.

Helen Littlewolfe underwent surgery at University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta, but died the following day, May 15, 1998.