

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

CANADA

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at The Law Courts, Provincial Court of Alberta, in the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta on the 26th day of July, 1995 before The Honourable Judge Paul L. Adilman, A Provincial Court Judge.

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

TAYPOTAT, Debra Ann (age 30 years) of Edmonton, Alberta and the following findings were made:

Date of Death:	September 20, 1994
Time of Death:	between 12:01 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
Place of Death:	Algonquin Motor Lodge, Room 260 10401 Mayfield Road 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).

Drug overdose - acute morphine and diazepam toxicity

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Fatality Inquiry (Continued)

TAYPOTAT, Debra Ann

Date of Death: September 20, 1994

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)).

Accidental.

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED

During the late afternoon or early evening of September 18, 1994, Monroe Harley Jamerson (a male nursing attendant) received a telephone call from the deceased whom he had known on a friendly basis for approximately 4 years. She told him she had just come in from Saskatchewan and would like to go out with him. He picked her up between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. in his car near downtown Edmonton and they drove to a Husky service station on the south side of Edmonton where they had pie and coffee and visited. They agreed to get a motel room and at her request, he first drove her to a house on 107 Avenue where she got a small bag and then to another location near 110 Street & 107 Avenue to her relative's apartment where she got a large suitcase. They drove to the Algonquin Motor Lodge where he obtained a room for the two of them (Room #260) at about 2:00 a.m.

He got some pop and they watched T.V. and she washed her clothing in the bathroom. They went to sleep and he was awakened by his beeper and left at 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. The deceased was sleeping so he left her a note stating he would pay for one more night and return later. He returned at approximately 10:30 a.m., paid for one more night and went to their room. The door was locked, he heard nothing and assumed the deceased was still sleeping and he received another call on his beeper so he left. He returned that afternoon of September 19th, and again got no answer at the door, assumed she was still sleeping and left and never returned. Either on September 20th or 21st, he went to the apartment on 110 Street & 107 Avenue (where she had gotten the large suitcase) looking for the deceased and was told by the occupant that Debra Taypotat had died. Mr. Jamerson stated in his evidence that he never gave the deceased any money, nor did he see her use or consume any drugs; nor in the 4 years he knew her, did he ever see her use any drugs.

On September 19th, around 11:00 a.m. the chambermaid on entering room #260 with the pass key heard snoring. Asked if the occupants wished

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service and upon getting no response, left. She didn't see who was in the room.

On September 20th, Helena Tavares, the chambermaid, entered the room with her pass key at approximately 11:00 a.m., called out "Hello, Hello" and saw the deceased lying in bed with her arm resting on the head board and her head just out of the covers. The arm appeared to be red and blue and there was white heavy foam around the mouth and nose. She thought the person in bed was dead. Ms. Tavares went to room 259 and called the manager who attended at room 260, saw the deceased and immediately called police.

Bruce Fraser, an Emergency Medical Attendant arrived on the scene at 11:25 and examined the deceased and found she had no pulse or respiration and was obviously dead and in his opinion had been dead for more than 2 or 3 hours. He also noted the foam about her face and nostrils, which to him indicated respiratory distress.

The police investigated and found no signs of violence to the room, or to the deceased's body and from their investigation concluded this was a non-criminal death. A thorough search of the room revealed no drugs or drug paraphernalia. The deceased was identified from a fingerprint. It was also then determined that there was an outstanding warrant for her arrest for being unlawfully at large on September 18, 1994.

The deceased died of a drug overdose which cannot be attributed to being suicidal as there is no evidence of suicide, but the evidence seems clear that the drugs consumed by the deceased were consumed voluntarily by her.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

None.

DATED this 26th day of July, 1995 at the City of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta.



The Honourable Judge Paul L. Adilman
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta