



**FOR PUBLIC RELEASE: Coroner Judgement of Inquiry and Inquest
Inquisition and Recommendations**

Department of Justice, Legal Services
Yukon Coroners Service
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Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of: <u>Matthew RUTTAN</u>		
Coroner Investigative File No.: <u>45202016016</u>		
Name: <u>Matthew RUTTAN</u>	Date of Birth: <u>1983-02-02</u> <small>YYYY/MM/DD</small>	Date of Death: <u>2016-06-02</u> <small>YYYY/MM/DD</small>
Address: <u>British Columbia, Canada</u> <small>Street Address</small>	<small>Province/Territory</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>
Ethnic Origin: <u>Caucasian</u>	Location of Death: <u>Cultus Bay Road (Gladstone Creek)</u>	

Cause of Death

Crush Injury to Head as a result of a vehicle roll over.

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

No autopsy.

An external body examination revealed various blunt force and crush injuries. There was significant head trauma which proved incompatible with life.

Toxicological Findings

Toxicology testing conducted at the Provincial Toxicology Center of British Columbia indicated no alcohol, prescription medications or illicit drugs.

Circumstances of Death

Matthew Ruttan was a 33-year-old resident of British Columbia. He was working at a TLC Explorations mine site at Gladstone Creek for the summer. On June 1, 2016 he was involved in an incident involving two motor vehicles in tow configuration, in which one of the vehicles rolled and struck him. He was transported by helicopter to Haines Junction Health Centre where he was pronounced deceased from injuries sustained in the incident.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Mr. Ruttan was traveling on a technically challenging remote road with many steep grades in a two-wheel drive van. He had little experience driving on this road. A second 4-wheel drive vehicle traveled with him.

Mr. Ruttan's vehicle became stuck on a steep upgrade. The second vehicle attempted to tow Mr. Ruttan's van and when it was unsuccessful with Mr. Ruttan in the driver's seat, he was instructed to exit the van and stand clear of the vehicles. The second driver attempted to manoeuver the van from the driver's seat, as a result it unexpectedly rolled backwards pulling the tow vehicle into the van's front end.

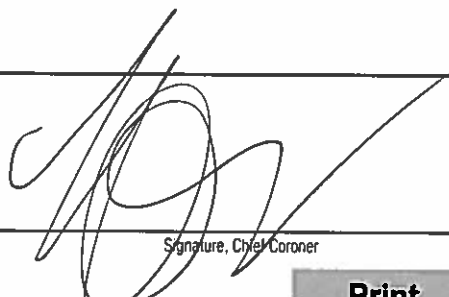
The van door struck Mr. Ruttan causing him to be disorientated and unable to move completely out of the way of the tow vehicle which continued to roll backwards. The vehicle rolled over Mr. Ruttan.

Mr. Ruttan sustained a fatal closed head injury and was pronounced deceased after transport to Haines Junction .

Recommendations

No recommendations

*This investigation was conducted by Chief Coroner K. MacDonald and turned over to A/CC Heather Jones on December 12, 2016. I am in full agreement with the facts as they were determined by Chief Coroner MacDonald in this document.



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

March 9, 2018

Date

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