



# 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:** David Christopher Boyle

**Coroner Investigative File No.:** 45202013036

Name: David Christopher Boyle Date of Birth: 1960/03/07 Date of Death: 2013/09/27  
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

Address: 23 Tabor Crescent, Whitehorse, Yukon  
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: Caucasian Location of Death: N60 22.939 W133 148.344 Near KM 1330

### Cause of Death

Undetermined

### Manner of Death

Undetermined

### Autopsy Findings

An autopsy was performed on October 1, 2013 at Vancouver General Hospital. The autopsy showed skeletonized, fragmented remains including the skull, fragments of long bones/extremities, and one segment of vertebral spine. Examination of the skeletonized remains and the brain showed no overt evidence of major injuries; however, the examination was significantly compromised by the state of the remains. The pathologist ruled the cause of death to be Undetermined.

### Toxicological Findings

Postmortem toxicological analysis of brain tissue showed a low concentration of alcohol, 0.05%. It was determined that the low level of alcohol detected was likely related to the state of decomposition. No prescribed medications or illicit drugs were detected.

### Circumstances of Death

53 year old Whitehorse resident, David Christopher Boyle was last seen August 30, 2013. He was driving a white pick-up truck with Skookum Asphalt markings on the side of the truck. Mr. Boyle did not show up for work on September 3, 2013 and was reported missing that same day. Aerial, water, and land searches were performed but Mr. Boyle's whereabouts remained unknown. At approximately noon on September 27, 2013, two friends of Mr. Boyle were traveling near KM 1330 Alaska Highway when they noticed a vehicle off the paved highway, down an embankment. This section of highway is well-traveled and well-maintained and is described as a straight stretch, just before a slight left curve. The weather from August 30, 2013 to September 5, 2013 was seasonally warm with very little precipitation. The vehicle was located on the southbound side of the highway, traveling in a northbound direction. It appeared from the scene that the truck had been traveling northbound when for unknown reasons it crossed the southbound lane, left the paved surface and traveled down a steep embankment. There were no visible skid marks, plowing or scuffing indicating that any braking or evasive action had taken. The vehicle traveled approximately forty feet down the embankment before it came to a rest against a large tree. The vehicle was partially hidden by tress and foliage that fell after the collision. There was blood evidence to suggest that Mr. Boyle was partially dislodged from the vehicle, with a portion of the body hanging over the driver-side door. This would indicate that the seat belt was not in use upon impact. The remains of Mr. Boyle were located outside the vehicle in the general vicinity of the crash site. There was post-mortem animal interference noted.

### Significant Factors/Conclusions

Due to limited evidence on scene and of the body it is not possible to determine what caused Mr. Boyle's death. There is no evidence that alcohol, illicit or prescription medications contributed to the death of Mr. Boyle.

We may never know why the vehicle Mr. Boyle was driving left the road. There was no indication of braking or evasive actions taken by Mr. Boyle. There was no mechanical failure or defects of the vehicle that Mr. Boyle was driving that contributed to the accident.

In the absence of evidence to conclusively rule a death one manner of death or another, the death is ruled Undetermined. "Undetermined" is a positive finding, reflecting a full investigation and careful consideration of all the available evidence and should not be considered a failure to reach a conclusion.

### Recommendations

No recommendations



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

March 17, 2014

Date

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