



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: Karen Edith Stutzman

Coroner Investigative File No.: 452014039

Name: Karen Edith Stutzman Date of Birth: 1964/06/29 Date of Death: 2014/12/02
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

Address: 986 Range Road Street Address Whitehorse Province/Territory Y1A 2C6 Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: First Nations Location of Death: Whitehorse General Hospital

Cause of Death

Hypothermia due to Exposure to Cold Environment. Part II: Acute Alcohol Intoxication

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

An autopsy was performed at Vancouver General Hospital on December 4, 2014 at 09:35hrs by Dr. Matthew Orde, Forensic Pathologist. The autopsy revealed findings that were consistent with resuscitation efforts. There was no potential lethal natural disease conditions identified.

Toxicological Findings

Toxicology analysis was performed by the Provincial Toxicology Centre of British Columbia. Heavy level of intoxication with alcohol (BAC .22% - Vitreous .28%) Sedative antihistamine pheniramine was also detected at an estimated therapeutic level.

Circumstances of Death

The investigation revealed that Ms. Stutzman made interac transactions at the Gold Pan Saloon in Whitehorse, Yukon on the evening of December 1, 2014. The last interac transaction was at 22:07hrs. It is believed Ms. Stutzman took a taxi home sometime after that last transaction. Ms. Stutzman was found unresponsive and at 07:20hrs, a call for EMS was made. Ms. Stutzman was transported to Whitehorse General Hospital. Her body temperature was noted to be 22.3C. Despite extensive medical intervention, the patient's temperature increased to only 23 degrees.

Considering wind chill factors, the temperature between 22:00hrs December 1, 2014 and 07:00hrs December 2, 2014 was between -24C and -26C.

Ms. Stutzman was pronounced deceased at Whitehorse General Hospital at 09:10hrs on December 2, 2014.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

The temperature in Whitehorse from 22:00hrs December 1, 2014 to 07:00hrs December 2, 2014 was extremely cold and a wind chill factor caused the temperatures to drop to -26C.

Toxicology testing revealed that Ms. Stutzman was acutely intoxicated with a heavy level of alcohol.

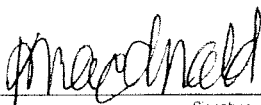
Recommendations

Directed to: Yukon Liquor Corporation

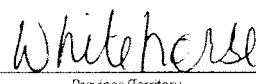
Yukon Liquor Corporation has various broad-based social responsibility initiatives that aim to create awareness about responsible drinking practices.

To prevent future similar deaths, the public would benefit from a social responsibility initiative regarding responsible drinking practices in a cold environment and the inherent risks of mixing alcohol and cold weather.

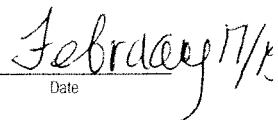
1. Working together with appropriate partners, develop and implement an ongoing, annual social responsibility initiative which specifically addresses the dangers of consuming alcohol in a cold weather environment and which supports responsible consumption during the cold winter months.



Signature, Chief Coroner



Province/Territory



Date

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