



**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: Yoichi Kubota

Coroner Investigative File No.: 4520201527

Name: Yoichi Kubota Date of Birth: 1985-03-22 Date of Death: 2015-07-28

YYYY/MM/DD

YYYY/MM/DD

Address: Ontario, Canada

Street Address

Province/Territory

Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: Japanese

Location of Death: Slims West Trail, Kluane National Park

Cause of Death

Drowning as a consequence of Creek Crossing with Backpack

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

An autopsy was performed at Vancouver General Hospital on August 5, 2015. The examination revealed a slim male with multiple, minor bruises and skin scrapes on the upper and lower extremities. There was fluid, frothy substance, and sand found in the stomach, mouth and airways. There were no significant injuries or natural diseases identified.

Toxicological Findings

Toxicology testing indicated no alcohol, prescription medications or illicit drugs.

Circumstances of Death

Yoichi Kubota registered with Parks Canada to hike in the Slims West Trail and Observation Mountain area in Kluane National Park. Mr. Kubota registered with Parks Canada on July 26, 2015. He was scheduled to check out from his hike on July 29, 2015 but failed to do so.

A search was undertaken and the body of 30 year old Yoichi Kubota was located at Canada Creek on July 30, 2015. It is believed that Mr. Kubota had attempted to navigate crossing the cold, fast moving creek waters.

The body of Mr. Kubota was still strapped into a Northface 65L hiking backpack. The left strap was wrapped around the left wrist of Mr. Kubota, the right arm was within the shoulder strap, and the waist belt was securely fastened. The backpack was estimated to weigh approximately 80lbs. Mr. Kubota weighed (66kg) 145lbs and was 5'6" tall (170cm).

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Mr. Kubota attempted to cross Canada Creek whilst wearing a backpack weighing approximately 80lbs. The shoulder straps and waist belt had not been loosened or unfastened prior to crossing the creek.

The weight/inability to quickly remove the back pack in the event of an emergency would have made it very difficult for Mr. Kubota to extricate himself from the cold, fast moving creek water.

Mr. Kubota died as a result of drowning while trying to cross Canada Creek.

Recommendations

No recommendations



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

October 9, 2015

Date

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Clear