



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: Shannon Meawasige

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202014003

Name: Shannon Meawasige Date of Birth: 1975/11/09 Date of Death: 2014/04/18

YYYY/MM/DD

YYYY/MM/DD

Address: 4 Bluebell Place, Whitehorse

Street Address

Province/Territory

Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: First Nation Location of Death: 1km South of Spirit Lake S. Klondike Hwy

Cause of Death

Blunt Force Cervical Spine Injuries due to Passenger in a Snow Mobile Accident

Manner of Death

Homicide

Autopsy Findings

An autopsy was performed on the body of Mr. Meawasige at Vancouver General Hospital on April 23, 2014 at 09:00hrs.

The autopsy revealed that death was caused by blunt force injuries primarily involving the cervical spine. The spinal cord was severed and the injuries would have proven rapidly fatal.

Toxicological Findings

Post mortem toxicology was performed on samples taken at the autopsy. The testing and analysis was performed at the Provincial Toxicology Centre of British Columbia. Toxicology testing revealed levels of alcohol which are consistent with a heavy level of intoxication with alcohol (.31%). There were no prescribed medications or illicit drugs detected.

Circumstances of Death

On the evening of April 18, 2014, Mr. Meawasige was a passenger on a snow machine. The snow machine was traveling through a treed area on the east side of the South Klondike Highway north of the community of Carcross, Yukon. The driver of the snow machine turned west toward the highway and exited the tree line. The snow machine traveled off a steep embankment (approximately 2m high) and rolled. The location of the accident was a sand-filled ditch running alongside the South Klondike Highway.

The snow mobile was a black Arctic Cat Panther 570. A mechanical examination of the snow mobile revealed no mechanical defects that may have caused or contributed to the collision.

The weather at the time of the collision was seasonally mild. According to historical data, the sunrise at this time of year occurs at approximately 06:22 with the sun setting at 19:47 hours. The daylight at the time of the collision could be described as dusk.

The deceased, Mr. Meawasige was located underneath the overturned snow mobile. He was not wearing a helmet at the time of the collision.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Mr. Meawasige was a passenger on a snow mobile which was driven by another person. The snow machine traveled off a steep embankment and rolled.

The cervical spine injury sustained by Mr. Meawasige in the collision was not-survivable and death from the injuries would have been rapidly fatal.

Recommendations

No recommendations


Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

December 16/14

Date

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