



VERDICT OF CORONER'S JURY

August 2009, approximately five (5) days after her injury occurred.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF JURY: (SEE ATTACHED)

DATED AT IQALUIT ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 13th 2011.

NAMES OF ALL JURORS:

SIGNATURES OF ALL JURORS:

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AS A RESULT OF AN INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF Elisapee MICHAEL

HELD ON APRIL 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th and 13th 2011, AT Iqaluit IN
NUNAVUT

THE JURORS HAVE CONSIDERED THE EVIDENCE AND MAKE THE
FOLLOWING

DETERMINATIONS:

1. IDENTITY OF DECEASED:

- Elisapee Michael

2. DATE AND TIME OF DEATH:

- August 13th, 2009

2. PLACE OF DEATH:

- Civic Campus of the Ottawa Hospital of Ottawa, Ontario.

3. CAUSE OF DEATH:

- Head injury

4. MANNER OF DEATH:

- Accidental

5. CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED:

- Elisapee Michael had consumed alcohol. She was asked to leave the licenced establishment. Upon leaving Elisapee Michael fell down the stairs and hit her head on the ground. An ambulance was called and Elisapee Michael was transported to the hospital. Elisapee Michael was examined by two (2) doctors. Later on, Elisapee Michael became agitated and was transferred to the RCMP holding cell. Fourteen (14) hours later Elisapee Michael was found to be in distress and an ambulance was called to return Elisapee Michael to the hospital. It was determined at the hospital, that in the fall, Elisapee Michael had suffered a serious brain injury. Elisapee Michael was medivaced to Ottawa, Ontario on the following Monday, the 10th of August. Examination in Ottawa confirmed the head injury and that no medical procedure would be of any value to Elisapee Michael. At that time medical support was withdrawn and Elisapee Michael passed away the 13th of



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RECOMMENDATIONS OF JURY:

- Every member of our society, no matter how they arrive at a given circumstance, deserves to be given proper care with the fullest respect and dignity that a member of this society deserves.

City of Iqaluit

- The City of Iqaluit Fire Department should implement a version control protocol for their patient log file documents, so that changes and amendments made to a previously filed report can be traced showing changes made to the documents.
- Have the City of Iqaluit Building Inspectors ensure that licensed establishments and places accessible to the public are code compliant, and regularly assessed for continuing compliance, with the National Building Code in respect to the entrance and exit facilities. (Steps, railings, lighting, and wheel chair ramp) of their premises.
- The Iqaluit Fire Department EMS service shall implement a written log form detailing all known event history concerning a patient for hand off to QGH on patient transfer.

RCMP

- Full time video/digital recording be done by the RCMP of all occupied cells, no matter the reasons as to why the cell is occupied, and kept for a minimum of six months unless a longer period of time is required by the justice system.
- Consideration should be given to the RCMP adding a camera showing the outside door where prisoners enter the detachment.
- The RCMP shall only employ guards who have received full and complete training on all cell block procedures as outlined in the RCMP manuals for the Iqaluit detachment. Such training shall be updated and verified semi-annually. Such training materials provided to the guards will be continually available at the guard station.



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- To provide translation services to prisoners at all times.
- The visibility through the cell door window is to be maintained at all times.
- Cell block log entries are to be as detailed as possible, for each individual in the cells. RCMP should consider computerizing their log book operations.
- RCMP should perform 4R's rousability tests on all intoxicated prisoners every 2 hours.
- Ensure that emergency numbers are clearly posted and put on the guard stations speed dial keys of the phone.
- When patients are released from QGH to the RCMP they are to be released with a document that clearly indicates conditions of monitoring required and all special precautions to be taken. Clear instructions for the release of the individual are to be included, and signed off by the Doctor. Any follow up medical care required must be included on the form (time to return to hospital etc.). One copy to be given to the RCMP at transfer and one copy to be kept in the medical file of the patient.

OGH

- A C.T. scan machine with necessary systems and personnel should be installed immediately. We believe that it would improve the health care for all citizens of Nunavut.
- At each visit to the hospital the receptionist/admitting clerk shall verify and update next of kin information for that patient.
- Where next of kin contact information exists in a patient's medical file, such information shall be displayed on the patient's wrist band and used in the case that a patient who cannot communicate is in a life threatening situation.
- Under no circumstances shall a patient with a suspected head injury be released from the hospital to the custody of the RCMP.
- The hospital shall ensure that proper monitoring instructions in all cases of a head injury shall be communicated to the patient or their next of kin.



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- In the case where the medical staff feels a C.T. scan is necessary, prompt medivac of the patient to a facility equipped with a C.T. scanner shall be arranged.
- The hospital shall implement a secure area for problematic patients who need medical care instead of using the RCMP detachment to hold them in custody.
- A secure environment at QGH is required 24/7. Additional staff (security staff) to cover for no shows or any other additional security needs shall be called in.
- Security staff not to be used to supervise problematic patients and that such duties shall be left to the medical staff of QGH. Where resources do not allow for such, additional medical staff shall be called in.
- It is extremely important that orders issued by medical staff shall be properly communicated to all interested parties and not changed or modified in any way by any party. Instructions from the medical staff shall be in written form.
- To provide translation services to patients at all times.
- In the case where an unconscious patient is being medivaced to another health care facility and a medical escort is not traveling with the patient, the next of kin should be consulted prior to the patient leaving the north. The purpose of the consultation is to determine acceptable medical intervention on the part of the receiving medical facility. A medical consent form expressing the wish of the family shall accompany the patient.
- Due to issues with the Iqaluit cell phone system, the hospital shall implement a radio system that is able to communicate with the ambulances of the Iqaluit Fire Department.
- Before joining the medical staff of QGH new staff members shall be made aware of all policies, rules, and regulations that pertain to the discharge of patients or the transfer of patients to the custody of the RCMP

Government of Nunavut

- In order to reduce time lines for medivac purposes, it is recommended that there should always be a medivac plane



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located in Iqaluit. Ensure that such provisions are part of all future contracts awarded for medivac purposes.

- Health and SS must implement a territory wide drug and alcohol abuse treatment program immediately.