

## **Inquest into the Deaths of Don Mamakwa and Marlon (Roland) McKay**

### **Scope of the Inquest**

This inquest will explore the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Don Mamakwa, who died on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, and Roland McKay, who died on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The evidence will be directed at assisting the jury to answer the five questions outlined in section 31(1) of the *Coroners Act* and to make recommendations to prevent further deaths. The jury will not be making any finding of legal responsibility or expressing any conclusions of law.

Specifically, we will be addressing the following issues with respect to the deaths of Don Mamakwa and Roland McKay:

1. How racism, bias and stereotyping may have been a factor in the Thunder Bay paramedics' and police officers' interactions with Don Mamakwa and Roland McKay. Practical solutions to address racism, bias and stereotyping in such interactions will be examined.
2. The assessment of an intoxicated person or a person suspected to be intoxicated by, and communication between, first responder services prior to an individual being transported elsewhere, including to hospital by paramedics or into police custody.
3. The goals and appropriateness of taking intoxicated people or people suspected to be intoxicated into police custody. This would include the limitations of medical assessments performed by paramedics and cell checks performed by police officers as well as barriers that may exist to police taking intoxicated people or people suspected to be intoxicated to the hospital.
4. Alternatives to bringing intoxicated people or people suspected to be intoxicated into custody, such as to sobering centres or hospitals.
5. The policies and procedures regarding interactions between a police officer and an intoxicated person or a person suspected to be intoxicated. These interactions would include responding to a person's need for a health care assessment, the

decision to make an arrest, interactions during the admission process and throughout the person's time in police custody. Police officer compliance with such policies and procedures will be in scope.

6. Whether police policies, procedures and practices have been informed by other cell deaths at the Thunder Bay Police detachment since 2014, and the reports arising from the investigations of such deaths.
7. Medical illnesses that can mimic or exaggerate signs of intoxication and the supports (training, resources, etc.) that could help first responders identify such conditions.

The following issues will not be in scope at this inquest except as required to understand the factual circumstances of the death:

1. The emergency response and medical care provided to Don Mamakwa and Roland McKay after they were discovered unresponsive in their cells.
  2. The general availability of access to health care by citizens in Thunder Bay.
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