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**PRESS ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friday, February 19, 2021**

**TBPS OFFICERS TO FACE DISCIPLINARY HEARING FOR  
DEFICIENT INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF STACY  
DEBUNGEE**

On February 17, 2021, adjudicator Lee Ferrier, acting in place of the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, ruled that three officers involved in the shoddy investigation into the 2015 death of Stacy DeBungee can be served with Notices of Hearing and will face disciplinary proceedings under the *Police Services Act*.

Brad DeBungee, brother of Stacy DeBungee, commented:

I've been waiting a long time to see accountability for the painful disrespect shown to my brother and our family by the way the Thunder Bay Police Service investigated Stacy's death. They decided his death was non-criminal before collecting the information needed to make that determination. This shaped the rest of their investigation. It has left me and my family without answers that we deserve. I am glad that Notices of Hearing can now be served on those three officers so they have to face the accountability of a full disciplinary proceeding.

Transparency, accountability, and answers are what I have been fighting for these last five years. It's what Stacy deserves. It's what our family deserves. It's what the public deserves.

Mr. Ferrier's decision is an important decision in favour of accountability. Only time will tell if the officers are truly held to account. I hope they are.

Lawyer Julian Falconer of Falconers LLP who acts for Brad DeBungee and Rainy River First Nations stated:

I have said before that, sadly, Stacy DeBungee is the posterchild for everything that is wrong with the Thunder Bay Police Service. Now, over five years after Stacy's death, Mr. Ferrier's decision gives us cause for optimism. Mr. Ferrier recognized the significant public interest in ensuring full adjudication of the serious police misconduct at play in this case – neglect of duty in a death investigation, and discreditable conduct in the form of anti-Indigenous racism.



This decision was a long-time coming for my clients. They have been fighting tirelessly for transparency and accountability in policing in Thunder Bay, and for answers about what happened to Stacy. And their fight is not over.

No date has yet been set for the police disciplinary hearings, but as complainants, both Brad DeBungee and Rainy River First Nations will have standing to cross-examine the officers on their handling of the investigation.

*For further information, please view our website at <http://www.falconers.ca>.*

