

## **PRESS ADVISORY**

### **MAMAKWA-MCKAY INQUEST VERDICT**

#### **JURY DELIVERS VERDICT IN THE DEATHS OF DON MAMAKWA AND ROLAND MCKAY**

**November 4, 2022**

The four-person jury in the Inquest into the deaths of Don Mamakwa and Roland McKay has delivered a verdict. Regarding Don Mamakwa, the jury ruled that the manner of his death was undetermined. Regarding Roland McKay, the jury ruled that his death was the result of natural cause.

Rachel Mamakwa, sister of Don Mamakwa, commented: **“We want to thank the jury for their hard work during the inquest. We understand arriving at this verdict was not an easy task. We were hoping the jury would find Don’s death to be a homicide, but we are happy that there has been a public airing about the horrible way that Don was treated. He deserved so much better. We appreciate the recommendations that were put forward so that no other family will have to go through this.”**

Denise Tait, a niece of both Don Mamakwa and Roland McKay commented: **“Our families are relieved it is over so we can finally start our healing journey and let them rest. All my family has ever wanted was to find out what happened to my uncle. We are happy that we now have those answers. We want to thank the jury for their work during this four-week inquest.”**

Lawyer Asha James, who acts for the Mamakwa and McKay families, stated, **“While the jury may not have agreed with the family’s submission regarding the manner of death of Mr. Mamakwa, they have returned a powerful slate of recommendations aimed at addressing these tragic deaths and preventing any future similar tragedies. The recommendations directed to the police services board sends a strong message that they have a lot of work to do to rebuild the trust of the Indigenous community and they will have to publicly show the progress, or lack thereof, in its implementation of recommendations from all the reports, inquests, inquiries that have spoken up about the Board’s disfunction.”**

The verdict of the jury, as well as their recommendations for the prevention of future tragedies such as these will be posted on our website. The recommendations will be translated into Oji-Cree and provided to the communities of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and Kasabonika Lake First Nation.

*For further information, please see our website at [www.falconers.ca](http://www.falconers.ca)*