



PRESS ADVISORY

FAMILY OF MIRANDA MAMAKWA SEEKS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE NEGLIGENCE BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LEADING TO HER DEATH

October 30, 2026

“If I die, please go after them.” This was Miranda Mamakwa’s post to social media less than one month before her death. Her message was directed at the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program, administered by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

Miranda’s family: her mother Eva Mamakwa, her father Mike Bluecoat, and her three children, ages 7, 9, and 11, are honouring Miranda’s call to action and have sent a letter (through legal counsel) to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Commissioner, Thomas Carrique, to formally seek a criminal investigation in respect of Miranda’s death. Miranda, a member of Fort Severn First Nation, passed away on September 8, 2026, after NIHB officials failed to arrange medical transportation from her remote community to multiple required follow-up appointments after her open-heart surgery. The family is calling on the OPP to investigate the individuals who failed Miranda Mamakwa for criminal negligence causing death.

Following her open-heart surgery in April 2026, Miranda relied on NIHB, which is mandated to provide medical transportation services to First Nations peoples, to arrange her transportation from Fort Severn to Thunder Bay for critical follow-up care. In the months following her surgery, the Fort Severn Nursing Station sent multiple requests to the Sioux Lookout NIHB office to arrange Miranda’s medical transportation, along with letters from Miranda’s treating physicians. Despite these requests, the public officials in the Sioux Lookout NIHB office failed to arrange Miranda’s medical transportation, preventing Miranda from attending her required appointments and leading to her death.

The criminal justice system should only be invoked where grounds exist to believe a crime has been committed. Public officials are as accountable as anyone else in this country for reckless acts that endanger those in their charge. The wanton and reckless disregard shown for Miranda's health, and ultimately her life, by those public officials responsible for arranging her medical transportation makes such an investigation a necessity.

Miranda’s parents, Eva Mamakwa and Mike Bluecoat, said:

This should never have happened to Miranda. She should be alive today. We deserve to know how something like this happened, and we want the individual or individuals



responsible for failing to respond to these urgent requests for transportation to be held accountable. They cost Miranda her life. They cost her children a future without their mother.

Lawyer for the Mamakwa Family, Julian Falconer, stated:

In this country, when a reckless disregard for the sanctity of life results in a death, the involved parties are investigated and, if reasonable and probable grounds so dictate, they are criminally charged and brought to trial. Time will tell if, in 2026, different rules apply in respect of an Indigenous loss of life.

We have created an apartheid system in this country as it relates to the delivery of medical services to Indigenous people. It must stop. Miranda's three small children and her parents are victims of the reckless acts of public officials that led directly to her death. The Mamakwa family is entitled to the utmost consideration by Commissioner Carrique and the OPP in the conduct of a full and fair criminal investigation.

ISC Minister, Mandy Gull-Masty, expressed her condolences and instructed an investigation into the facts that led to Miranda's death. This is not enough. Miranda's family and community deserve to know why her life slipped through the cracks and who will be held accountable.

Miranda's family will not be making any further public comments at this time.

For further information please visit our website at www.falconers.ca or contact our office, Falconers LLP, at 416-964-0495.

