



**Office of the Chief Coroner**  
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November 3, 2016

Via email: [khobbs@thunderbay.ca](mailto:khobbs@thunderbay.ca)

Keith Hobbs  
Mayor  
City of Thunder Bay  
500 Donald Street East  
PO Box 800  
Thunder Bay ON P7C 5K4

Dear Mayor Hobbs:

**Re: Inquest into the deaths of Seven First Nations Youths:**

**Jethro ANDERSON (d. 11/Nov/2000); Reggie BUSHIE (d. 01/Nov/2007);  
Robyn HARPER (d. 13/Jan/2007); Kyle MORRISSEAU (d. 10/Nov/2009);  
Paul PANACHEESE (d. 11/Nov/2006); Curran STRANG (d. 26/Sep/2005);  
Jordan WABASSE (d. 10/May/2011)**

**OCC Inquest File No.: Q2016-26  
Date Inquest Jury Verdict &  
Recommendations Received: 28 June 2016**

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The jury in the inquest into the deaths of seven First Nations youths has made recommendations which your organization may be in a position to implement. Please report back regarding your consideration to implement the recommendations relating to your organization by completing the attached chart, *Responses to Jury Recommendations*, and applying the appropriate response codes. Your response is requested by **June 28, 2017**.

A list of other organizations also requested to report back is provided.

It is important to explain the significance of inquests and consequent recommendations under the *Coroners Act*. An inquest is a public hearing conducted by a coroner before a jury of five community members. Inquests are held for the purpose of informing the public about the circumstances of a death. An inquest does not find fault, blame or legal wrongdoing but rather examines the circumstances of one or more deaths and looks for lessons that can be learned from the death(s) that may contribute to a safer future for the living. Juries often make recommendations based on these learned lessons and,

while they are not binding, it is hoped that implemented recommendations will prevent future deaths in similar circumstances.

The inquest jury verdict and recommendations are located on the Office of the Chief Coroner, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services website at:

[http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/DeathInvestigations/Inquests/VerdictsRecommendations/OCC\\_verdicts.html](http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/DeathInvestigations/Inquests/VerdictsRecommendations/OCC_verdicts.html)

The presiding inquest coroner's verdict explanation is located on the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) website at:

[http://www.canlii.org/en/on/onocco/nav/date/2016\\_06.html](http://www.canlii.org/en/on/onocco/nav/date/2016_06.html)

Your response will be considered public and may be released to interested parties upon request. Summaries of responses to recommendations from all inquests are also compiled by our office and made available to the public.

Please provide us with the name and contact information of the individual leading your organization's response by February 3, 2017. As well, if you feel any of the recommendations should be directed elsewhere, complete the attached Contact Information and Recommendation Referrals form and forward to [OCC.inquiries@ontario.ca](mailto:OCC.inquiries@ontario.ca).

As noted above, inquest jury recommendations are not legally binding; however, we trust they will be given careful consideration for implementation and, if not implemented, that your organization provides an explanation.

Thank you for participating in this important process. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dirk Huyer, MD  
Chief Coroner for Ontario

DH/msp

*Enclosures:*

Responses to Jury Recommendations

Response Codes

List of Organizations Requested to Respond to Jury Recommendations

Contact Information and Recommendation Referrals



## OCC Response Codes

Response Code	Response Legend
1	Recommendation <i>has</i> been implemented
1A	Recommendation <i>will</i> be implemented
1B	Alternate recommendation <i>has been</i> implemented
2	Under consideration
3	Unresolved issues
4	Rejected
4A	Rejected due to flaws
4B	Rejected due to lack of resources
5	Not applicable to agency assigned
6	No response
7	Unable to evaluate
8	Content or intent of recommendation is already in place

## **List of Organizations Requested to Respond to Jury Recommendations**

### **Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26**

*(Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper,  
Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang & Jordan Wabasse)*

Canada (Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada)

City of Thunder Bay

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (DFCHS)

Health Canada

Keewatinook Okimakanak (KO)

Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO)

Matawa Learning Centre (MLC)

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS)

Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC)

Office of the Chief Coroner

Ontario (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)

P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS)