

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF SEVEN FIRST NATIONS YOUTHS:  
Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper, Kyle Morriseau, Paul Panacheese,  
Curran Strang and Jordan Wabasse**

**IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT OF  
THE THUNDER BAY POLICE SERVICE**

**June 25, 2021**

## **A. Overview**

On June 28, 2016, the verdict in the Joint Inquest into the Deaths of Seven First Nations Youths in the City of Thunder Bay (“Joint Inquest”) was released along with 145 recommendations directed to various institutional parties. Of the 145 recommendations, approximately six (6) relate to policing matters and were directed to, among other institutions, the Thunder Bay Police Service (the “Service”). All of the recommendations that refer to the Service have been accepted. This Report is prepared pursuant to Recommendation 144 to provide an update on implementation status.

## **B. Recommendations Directed to All Parties**

A number of recommendations arising out of the Joint Inquest are directed to all parties. The Service acknowledges and accepts these recommendations and reports as follows:

### **Recommendation 7 – Guiding Principles - Complete**

This recommendation is accepted by the Service. Implementation is being guided by the statements contained in this recommendation.

### **Recommendation 143 – Annual Report on Implementation Status – Complete**

This recommendation is accepted by the Service and this Report constitutes the Service’s Report thereunder.

### **Update June 2020-2021:**

The last report was submitted in 2020, this submission constitutes the ongoing support of that annual report.

### **Recommendation 144 – Process of Posting Annual Reports - Complete**

The Service submits its report to the Coroner and also provides NAN with its completed yearly updates for publication on NAN’s website. Further, the Service publishes its annual Inquest reports at [www.thunderbaypolice.ca](http://www.thunderbaypolice.ca)

**Recommendation 145 – Revise Policies and Procedures – Complete**

The Service has completed its changes to policies and procedures. Any further changes, when identified, will be made during normal operational reviews and implemented as appropriate.

**C. Recommendation involving Police and other Institutions**

**Recommendation 48 – Grade 8 Visit Program - Complete**

The Grade 8 Visit Program (“Visit Program”) was created and implemented proactively by the Service during the hearing phase of the Joint Inquest and prior to the release of the verdict and recommendations. While the recommendation obligation has been fulfilled the TBPS will continue the program indefinitely.

**First Nations Visits: June 2020 - 2021 - Ongoing**

The in-person visits were postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Community Inclusion Team used the time to develop interactive presentations for future visits and for online engagement. Community Services Officers engaged youth locally through the Archery Program when restrictions were not in place.

The Community Inclusion Team, including the School Resource Officers, continued presentations online to students within our jurisdictions.

The Community Inclusion Team is also partnering with a media relations company and a youth mentor to create new content and anti-gang presentations to be used during engagement activities when COVID restrictions allow. Online engagement will begin in the fall if in person presentations are still restricted.

**Update (on Student Lists): June 2020 – 2021 - Ongoing**

The TBPS is still waiting on whether each individual education authority will provide student lists. This year none were received.

### **Update (on Ambassadors): June 2020 - 2021 - Ongoing**

The COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on travel. However, NAN developed a workshop on Community Visit Protocols and the members of the TBPS Community Inclusion Team participated in the online training.

### **Update (on Service/NAPS joint presentation): June 2020 - 2021 - Complete**

As of October 2018, all NAPS officers have received the presentation from the Service's ALU officers, and our Safety Presentation video has now been sent to all NAPS detachments for them to use on a go forward basis without their respective communities.

### **Recommendation 91 – Working Group – Substantially Complete but will be Ongoing**

This recommendation was proposed jointly by the Service and other parties. It has been accepted by the Service and implementation is ongoing.

- **i. The need to ensure timely reporting to police of all missing person matters that involve a Student (In Progress).**

The Service can confirm that it is working with Matawa Learning Centre ("Matawa"), Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School ("DFC"), Keewatinook Okimakanak ("KO") and the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council ("NNEC") to prepare missing person protocols and contact information resources in an effort to synchronize policies and procedures among all on-call workers across different educational organizations.

- **ii. & iv. Public Awareness/Social Media Search (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **iii. Information Sheets (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **v. Press Releases (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.

- **vi. Best Practices for Interviews (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **vii. & viii. Internal and Global Search Plans (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **ix. & x. Missing Person Risk Factors & Missing Person Questionnaire (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **xi. Training (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **xii. Training Case Scenario (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **xiii. Consultant (In Progress).** The Service has hired an external consultant (Leisa Desmoulin) regarding TBPS training modules and curriculum covering cultural issues relevant to the Indigenous community, as part of a larger organizational change project. The Committee's first meeting took place on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the work is ongoing.

**Update (Overall): June 2020 - 2021**

The Service has completed training of all its members as prescribed. As with any organization we continue to hire new person(s) and as such will provide training when it is identified and offered. A new in-house Indigenous diversity training curriculum is in the process of being developed.

The Service continues to be in discussion with NAN to finalize the outstanding items outlined in this recommendation.

**Update on Public Awareness/Social Media Campaign): Complete**

No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.

**Recommendation 94 – Multilingual Joint Search Protocol – Complete:**

**Update: June 2020 - 2021**

The Joint Search Protocol has been finalized and is not in circulation.

**Recommendation 96 – Joint Task Force with LCBO to Deter Underage Drinking (Complete).**

**Update: June 2020 – 2021:**

The “Runner Project Plan” at TBPS remains operational, when staffing complement permits.

**Recommendation 97 – Public Campaign to Deter Second Party Purchases of Alcohol (Complete).**

**Recommendation 115 – Safety Audit of River Areas (Complete).**

While the recommendation obligation has been satisfied the TBPS will continue to conduct safety audits of river areas on an ongoing permanent basis.

**Riverway/Floodway Monitoring Project:** The Service continues to monitor the identified high-risk areas, with daily foot patrols three times a day.

**Data Collection from Reporting Mechanism:** The following information has been gleaned from the project from January 2020 – December 2020:

<b>Average age</b>	34.39
<b>Median age</b>	43.5
<b>Oldest</b>	74
<b>Youngest</b>	13
<b># of 22 year olds</b>	12
<b># of 21 year olds</b>	7
<b># of 20 year olds</b>	1
<b># of 19 year olds</b>	6

# of 18 year olds	1
# under 18 years old	6
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>848</b>
<b>Total males</b>	527
<b>Total females</b>	194
<b>*No gender identified</b>	127

**Incidents 2019**

<b>January</b>	41
<b>February</b>	35
<b>March</b>	17
<b>April</b>	28
<b>May</b>	29
<b>June</b>	37
<b>July</b>	65
<b>August</b>	78
<b>September</b>	93
<b>October</b>	68
<b>November</b>	35
<b>December</b>	33

**Total Incidents 581**

**\*Compare to 2019 total of 1012**