



VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST

File No.: 2007:196:0028

An Inquest was held at Port Alberni Provincial Court, in the municipality of Port Alberni

in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates February 19th, 20th and 21st 2008

before Beth Larcombe, Presiding Coroner,

into the death of TOM Christopher 38 Male Female (Last Name, First Name) (Age)

and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: August 5th 2007 between 0320 and 0416 hours

Place of Death: RCMP Tofino Detachment Cell #1 Tofino, British Columbia (Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Respiratory Arrest DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Antecedent Cause if any: b) Acute alcohol intoxication DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating underlying cause last. c)

(2) Other Significant Conditions Contributing to Death:

Classification of Death: [X] Accidental [ ] Homicide [ ] Natural [ ] Suicide [ ] Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 21st day of February AD, 2008.

BETH LARCOMBE Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

Original signed by B. Larcombe Presiding Coroner's Signature



## VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST

### FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF

FILE No.: 2007:196:0028

TOM

SURNAME

Christopher

GIVEN NAMES

*Pursuant to Section 38 of the Coroner's Act, the following recommendations are forwarded to the Chief Coroner of the Province of British Columbia for distribution to the appropriate agency:*

#### JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

To: **Commanding Officer E Division RCMP**  
**5655 Heather St.,**  
**Vancouver, BC**

1. We recommend that a buzzer and timelock mechanism be installed outside of each cell door that would ensure that a guard would physically have to attend each cell door every 15 minutes
2. We recommend that Policy 19-2-1 of the RCMP E Division Operational Manual 'Assessing Prisoners Responsiveness' be adapted so that on the Rousability Chart they include "Rouse to Buzzer"
3. We recommend that RCMP officers receive higher training in CPR
4. We recommend mandatory working cameras at all times in all cells and to have a back up camera on site

To: **Commanding Officer E Division RCMP**  
**5655 Heather St.,**  
**Vancouver, BC**

**Corps of Commissionaires**  
**Vancouver Regional Headquarters**  
**Suite 801 595 Howe Street**  
**Vancouver, BC**  
**V6C 2T5**

5. We recommend that improved communication is required between RCMP officers and Guards pertaining specifically to the C-13 forms and medical conditions
6. We recommend that RCMP officers and Guards participate in cell crisis training

To: **The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council**  
**Suite 101 1119 Pacific Rim**  
**Port Alberni, BC**

7. We recommend more funding for alcohol and drug prevention for the Opitsaht community



## VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST

### FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF

FILE No.: 2007:196:0028

TOM

SURNAME

Christopher

GIVEN NAMES

8. We recommend investigating other band initiatives towards an alcohol free environment such as a Detox centre in Tofino which would include more counselors

To: **The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council**  
**Suite 101 1119 Pacific Rim**  
**Port Alberni, BC**

**The Municipality of the Village of Tofino**  
**Municipal Hall,**  
**121 Third Street,**  
**Tofino, BC**

**Municipal Office**  
**District of Ucluelet**  
**P.O. Box 999**  
**Ucluelet,**  
**BC, V0R 3A0**

9. We recommend funding for a Native Friendship Centre or Safe House in Tofino accompanied with drug and alcohol counselors.
10. We recommend all communities in the surrounding areas support the new proposed sports facility to ensure the young generations have something to look forward to.