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JAN 13 2017

CHIEF CORONER

JAN 11 2017

Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9259 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J4

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for the report and recommendations arising from the results of an Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Panel conducted in accordance with Section 49 of the British Columbia *Coroners Act*.

The work completed by the panel members is extremely important as it contributes to informing our understanding of intimate partner violence and approaches to preventing future tragedies. This review highlights that women are overwhelmingly vulnerable to intimate partner violence and raises the importance of awareness and education, safety planning and collaborative case management, and information collection and sharing.

British Columbia remains committed to the prevention of intimate partner violence. To date, this has included focusing on related issues at British Columbia's Justice Summits. Justice Summits are convened by the Attorney General and Solicitor General of British Columbia at least once a year to facilitate innovation in, and collaboration across, the justice and public safety sector.

In 2014, British Columbia's Fourth Justice Summit focused on improving responses to violence against women. In 2015, the Fifth Justice Summit explored trauma-informed justice system responses as well as ways in which the justice system can increase coordination across family, criminal, and child protection proceedings. These Justice Summits have resulted in ongoing actions specific to trauma informed practice as well as research and analysis into the coordination of information sharing in circumstances where family justice, criminal justice, and child protection proceedings intersect. These actions involve collaboration between the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the judiciary.

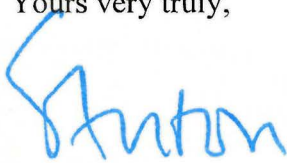
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Ms. Lisa Lapointe
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In response to *Recommendation 2: Strengthen IPV safety planning and early collaborative case management*, we will take the time to consider the report fully and assess this recommendation. As requested, we will advise you, the Chief Coroner, of our actions.

I would like to thank the BC Coroners Service and the Death Review Panel for their work on this important subject.

Yours very truly,



Suzanne Anton QC
Attorney General
Minister of Justice

425198



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

VIA E-MAIL

Ref: 230674

March 20, 2017

Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
Ministry of Public Safety
and Solicitor General
E-mail: ChiefCoronerCorrespondence@gov.bc.ca

Dear Lisa Lapointe:

Re: BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel Report and Recommendations

Thank you for the report and recommendations arising from the results of an Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Panel. As you note in your letter, Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 are directed to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) and are aimed at increasing public awareness of intimate partner violence and how best to respond; strengthening safety planning and case management; and enhancing collaboration and information sharing. I appreciate these recommendations and accept each one. MCFD and PODV are working with partner ministries in developing an action plan in response to these recommendations and I will provide you with a copy of the plan once it has been finalized.

Working in collaboration with other partners, MCFD and PODV have been and continue to be involved in initiatives that are in keeping with the recommendations, including but not limited to the following examples:

- As part of the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan, 50 Interagency Case Assessment Teams and nine Domestic Violence Units have been established across the province.
- A cross-ministry steering committee has been established to improve data access, information sharing and coordinated responses across sectors working with domestic violence, family and child welfare.
- In October 2016, over 300 participants attended a national conference titled Collaborating Across Systems: Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. Hosted by MCFD, PODV and the Child Welfare League of Canada, this conference brought together leaders, policy makers and practitioners in the social services fields to increase collaboration in response to domestic violence and child abuse.
- In February 2017, updates were completed to the Best Practice Manual that informs service providers when responding to domestic violence.

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Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Office of the
Minister

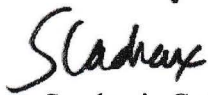
Mailing Address:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- The Early Years Tool Kit is being developed to assist early years professionals to effectively respond and support children and families affected by domestic violence.
- MCFD is providing training to service providers regarding domestic violence.

I would like to thank the British Columbia Coroners Service and the panel members for their work on the report and recommendations and for the opportunity to respond on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scadieux', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Cadieux
Minister

pc: Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare
Michael Egilson, Chair, Child Death Review Unit



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MAR 28 2017

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

MAR 27 2017

Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9259 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J4

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for the report and recommendations arising from the Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Panel that was conducted in November 2016.

The findings from this panel highlight the importance of increasing awareness and education, enhancing collaborative safety planning and improving cross sector information sharing as we continue to strengthen our responses to intimate partner violence.

In response to *Recommendation 2: Strengthen IPV safety planning and early collaboration case management*, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General continues to explore ways to incorporate cultural safety and humility and trauma-informed practices when addressing intimate partner violence through ministry and funded community programs.

British Columbia's fifth Justice Summit, held in November 2015, focused on a trauma-informed justice system response to victims of violent crime, and better coordination and information sharing in and across family justice, criminal justice and child protection matters. This Justice Summit has resulted in ongoing actions related to trauma-informed approaches, including a five year project that will help to support a trauma-informed justice and public safety sector. As part of this work, a training symposium was held in early March 2017 with approximately 300 attendees from across the justice and public safety sector.

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In addition, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, along with the Ministry of Justice has worked with the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) to develop justice-specific modules in PHSA's Indigenous Cultural Safety (ICS) training course. The new modules are designed to support culturally responsive and sensitive services, and target cultural competency learning needs for staff working in various areas of the justice system, including police, courts, corrections, and Crown Counsel. Discussions are currently underway to support implementation of this new resource within and across the sector.

Moving forward, we will continue to work with our partners to consider the recommendations in this report and will advise you, the Chief Coroner, of our actions.

Once again, I would like to thank you and the other panel members for their continued commitment to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Morris', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mike Morris
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: Mr. Michael Egilson



RECEIVED

JAN 15 2018

CHIEF CORONER

JAN 10 2018

Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9259 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J4

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

I am writing to provide your office with an update on the Ministry of Attorney General's work to date on the November 2016 Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Panel Recommendation 2: Strengthen IPV safety planning and early collaborative case management.

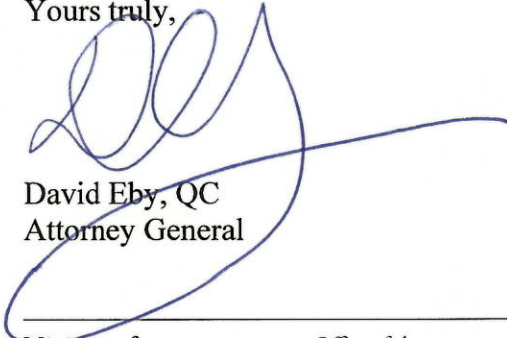
Through ongoing work on the Provincial Court Family Rules reform project, the ministry has explored the issues of early case management and role specialization with the Provincial Court. The potential changes are still in development and broader consultation will be occurring in 2018; however, one of the proposed changes is the introduction of a judicial officer in family files who would provide early and ongoing case management by a specialized professional.

In addition, the ministry continues to be engaged in the inter-ministry committee exploring ways to improve appropriate information sharing of key relevant information where family, criminal, and child protection proceedings intersect. This group was formed on recommendation from the Fifth BC Justice Summit.

The ministry also continues to work closely with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and the Coroners Recommendations Working Group in reviewing education materials, risk factors, and training.

Thank you once again for the work that you and the panel members have done and continue to do on this extremely important work.

Yours truly,


David Eby, QC
Attorney General

Ministry of
Attorney General

Office of the
Attorney General

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
email: AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
website: www.gov.bc.ca/ag

Telephone: 250 387-1866
Facsimile: 250 387-6411