



VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST

File No.: 2008:0364:1039

An Inquest was held at The Coroners Court, in the municipality of Burnaby

In the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates March 1-3, 2011

before Lisa Graham, Presiding Coroner,

into the death of Frechette, Frank Jonathan, 49, Male Female (Last Name, First Name) (Age)

and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: September 30, 2008 at 1151 hours

Place of Death: Langley Memorial Hospital, Langley, BC (Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Massive Blood Loss DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Antecedent Cause if any: b) Stab Wound to Left Chest and Abdomen 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: Illicit Drug Use

Classification of Death: Accidental Homicide Natural Suicide Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 3rd day of March AD, 2011.

LISA GRAHAM

Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

[Handwritten Signature]

Presiding Coroner's Signature





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

FILE NO.: 2008:0364:1039

FRECHETTE

SURNAME

Frank Jonathan

GIVEN NAMES

PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INQUEST:

Presiding Coroner: Lisa Graham

Coroner Counsel: Mr. Rodrick MacKenzie

Court Reporting/Recording Agency: Verbatim Recording Services

Participants/Counsel: Mr. David Kwan and Ms. Helen Park, counsel for the RCMP/Attorney General of Canada

The Sheriff took charge of the jury and recorded five exhibits. Fourteen witnesses were duly sworn in and testified.

PRESIDING CORONER'S COMMENTS:

The following is a brief summary of the circumstances of the death as set out in the evidence presented to the jury at the inquest. The following summary of the evidence as presented at the inquest is to assist the reader to more fully understand the Verdict and Recommendations of the jury. This summary not intended to be considered evidence nor is it intended in any way to replace the jury's verdict.

On the morning of September 30, 2008 a bank in the Brookwood area of Langley was robbed by a male carrying a sawed-off shotgun. The male was later determined to be Mr. Frank Jonathan Frechette, a man with a history of incarceration for bank robberies. Mr. Frechette was followed from the bank to his residence by a witness who provided Mr. Frechette's location and description to the police through a call to 911.

The Jury heard from Mr. Frechette's common-law spouse that upon returning to the residence he had gone into the bathroom and she had heard running water. After exiting the bathroom, he walked naked into the kitchen, screamed that he "was not going back", that he loved her and then stabbed himself twice in the left side of his torso with a large kitchen knife. He then ran to the front room of the home and jumped head first through the second storey plate glass window.

Mr. Frechette's spouse was on the phone with a denturist clinic at the time of this incident, and the office assistant with whom she was speaking advised the jury that she had heard a loud scream through the phone and that Mr. Frechette's spouse had sounded very surprised and had abruptly ended the conversation. She stated that she believed that the scream she heard had been at some distance from the phone and had been a man's voice.

The Langley RCMP had already arrived at the residence in response to the 911 call when Mr. Frechette jumped through the window. Several of the officers witnessed his descent to the front lawn. When he rose to his feet and began walking towards the officers after the fall he was directed by police to get down on the ground. He did briefly get down, but rose again and began walking back towards the residence. By this time it had become evident to the officers on scene that Mr. Frechette was bleeding profusely from wounds to his chest, although they were not yet aware that he had stabbed himself. Paramedics were called to the scene, but were directed to wait off site until the scene was secured and their safety could be assured.

The Jury heard testimony from multiple police officers that they remained concerned about the possible presence of the firearm used in the bank robbery, as it had not yet been located and secured. They stated that the priority



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was to ensure that all persons within the residence were safely removed and that Mr. Frechette not be allowed to re-enter the home, for his protection and theirs.

In order to prevent Mr. Frechette from re-entering the residence, the police dog was deployed, but the dog failed to engage and walked away. As Mr. Frechette drew within a few feet of the home's front door, a conducted energy weapon (TASER) was deployed to prevent him from gaining access to the house. As a result of the TASER use, Mr. Frechette collapsed forward into the entrance way of the home. Two police officers attended to securing him in handcuffs and the TASER was deployed a second time when it was perceived that he was fighting against the officers attempting to secure him.

Upon being handcuffed, Mr. Frechette was carried from the residence by an officer who moved him a safe distance from the home and began administering first aid to his chest wounds. A second officer produced a first aid kit from his patrol car and provided aid to try to stop the flow of blood.

Once the residence had been cleared and the threat of gunfire had been eliminated, the paramedics were called in to the scene. When they arrived at Mr. Frechette's side, he had significantly reduced heart and respiration rates. As he was being loaded into the ambulance, his heart stopped and CPR was commenced. CPR continued throughout his transportation to Langley Memorial Hospital.

Upon arrival at hospital emergency treatment continued for approximately half an hour, at which point it was deemed that further intervention was futile. Mr. Frechette was pronounced dead at 1151 hours.

The Jury heard testimony from the Toxicologist that Mr. Frechette had low levels of the metabolite of cocaine in his blood. The Toxicologist testified that his expert opinion was that the cocaine had been taken several hours before his death. He further related that moderate amounts of morphine had been detected, as had 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM). The presence of 6-MAM confirms that the morphine had been ingested in the form of heroin.

The Forensic Pathologist who performed the autopsy testified that he found the cause of death was due to massive blood loss due to stab wounds of the chest and abdomen. He found that the drug use was contributory to Mr. Frechette's death.





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

JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

No recommendations

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