



VERDICT AT INQUEST

File No.: 2011:0216:0177

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

in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates April 15,16,17, 2013

before Mr. Vincent Stancato, Presiding Coroner,

into the death of KAMPMAN, Christopher Leslie, 37, Male Female (Last Name, First Name Middle Name) (Age)

and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: July 2, 2011 @ 23:54 Hours

Place of Death: Abbotsford Regional Hospital, Abbotsford, British Columbia (Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) ACUTE HYPOXIC BRAIN INJURY

DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Antecedent Cause if any: b) CARDIORESPIRATORY ARREST

DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating underlying cause last. c) COCAINE ASSOCIATED CONFUSIONAL STATE and RESTRAINT

(2) Other Significant Conditions Contributing to Death:

Classification of Death: Accidental Homicide Natural Suicide Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 17th day of April AD, 2013.

Vincent Stancato Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

Handwritten signature of Vincent Stancato Presiding Coroner's Signature



## VERDICT AT INQUEST

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

FILE NO.: 2011:0216:0177

KAMPMAN

SURNAME

CHRISTOPHER LESLIE

GIVEN NAMES

#### **PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INQUEST:**

Presiding Coroner: Mr. Vincent M. Stancato  
Inquest Counsel: Mr. Rodrick MacKenzie  
Counsel/Participants: Mr. James Yardley, Counsel for the City of Abbotsford/Abbotsford Police  
Mr. Raj Samtani, Counsel for Dr. Sartor & Dr. Burke  
Mr. Robinder Dhanu, Counsel for the Kampman Family

Court Reporting/Recording Agency: Verbatim Words West Ltd.

The Sheriff took charge of the jury and recorded 4 exhibits as entered. Twenty-one witnesses were duly sworn and testified.

#### **PRESIDING CORONER'S SUMMARY:**

*The following is a brief summary of the circumstances of the death as presented to the jury at the inquest. The summary and my comments respecting the recommendations, if any, are only provided to assist the reader to more fully understand the Verdict and Recommendations of the jury. This summary is not intended to be considered evidence nor is it intended in any way to replace the jury's verdict.*

On June 30, 2011 at approximately 20:00 hours, Mr. Christopher Leslie Kampman visited his friend's residence to socialize. According to the friend, Mr. Kampman arrived at his residence with a six-pack of beer which they consumed. An hour later they departed the residence and were witnessed to enter the Duke of Dublin Pub in Abbotsford at approximately 21:30 hours. The waitress that served them testified that they ordered a jug of beer, but only consumed a small amount. She testified that the interaction she had with Mr. Kampman and his friend was "very strange". She described their behavior as "irrational and crazy" and she believed that they were intoxicated by drugs.

Mr. Kampman's friend testified that they "hung out" at the Duke of Dublin Pub for a while and then departed. It is unclear what they did following their departure, but a short time later, at approximately 22:30 hours, they were observed at Character's Pub. According to Mr. Kampman's friend they each ordered a beer. His friend testified that Mr. Kampman was dancing and was very "energetic", "hyper" and "excitable". After a short while they left the Pub and went back to the friend's residence. His friend testified that, at approximately midnight, he witnessed Mr. Kampman snort a few lines of cocaine. Mr. Kampman left the residence alone at approximately 01:00 hours on July 1, 2011 with the intent of purchasing more cocaine. His friend did not see him again. Their last contact was at 02:20 hours when Mr. Kampman text messaged the friend stating that he would not be coming back to his residence. The friend testified that Mr. Kampman seemed hyper and paranoid during their final interactions.

At approximately 03:25 hours on July 1, 2011 the police received a 911 call from a resident on Rosewood Drive in Abbotsford reporting that a prowler was on his property. The caller testified that



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the police were on site within approximately 5 minutes of his call, but by that time the prowler had left his property. Cst. Reid was first on scene at approximately 03:36 hours. He was in uniform and driving a marked police cruiser. Upon arrival, Cst. Reid commenced a search on foot for the prowler in the area of 2315 Rosewood Drive. He testified that he heard a loud crash and believed that the prowler had been alerted to his presence. He testified that he ran around into the backyard to attempt to locate the prowler. Cst. Bader arrived at this time and followed Cst. Reid into the backyard. They were unable to see anything in the adjacent backyard which was surrounded by a large fence. Cst. Reid returned to the backyard area of 2315 Rosewood Drive thinking the prowler may have doubled back; he testified that he peered over the tall fence and saw a male (later identified as Mr. Kampman) sitting on the ground by the corner of the neighbouring house located at 2303 Rosewood Drive.

Cst. Reid testified that he looked over the fence and identified himself as a police officer to Mr. Kampman. At this time Mr. Kampman said something incoherent and threw a handful of rocks towards him. Cst. Reid testified that he ducked behind the fence to avoid the rocks. He looked for a safe and accessible place to enter the backyard of 2303 Rosewood Drive. Cst. Reid then jumped the fence and ran directly towards Mr. Kampman who remained sitting on ground and did not make any attempt to flee. Cst. Reid testified that he attempted to handcuff Mr. Kampman, but was challenged in doing so due to active resistance by Mr. Kampman. With the assistance of Cst. Bader, he was able to handcuff Mr. Kampman. Both officers testified that no closed handed techniques and no use of force tools (i.e. pepper spray, baton, and Taser) were applied during the arrest. They also testified that Mr. Kampman did not attempt to strike either of them during the attempt to handcuff him. Once Mr. Kampman was handcuffed he was described as mumbling and squirming by the officers. He was incoherent and thought to be intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol.

Following the arrest the officers needed assistance to get out of the backyard as the surrounding fence was secured by a padlock. Cst. Lequesne responded and was able to cut the lock. Mr. Kampman was escorted by Cst. Reid and Cst. Lequesne to a police cruiser in front of the residence. Both officers described Mr. Kampman as needing some assistance to get him to the car. They searched Mr. Kampman at the police cruiser and then placed him into the rear seat with some difficulty. It was only after Mr. Kampman was in the vehicle that the police made a decision to call BC Ambulance personnel to attend and conduct a wellness check on Mr. Kampman. Their request to the BC Ambulance Service was routine and non-emergent.

The three officers kept watch on Mr. Kampman from outside the vehicle. Within minutes, Mr. Kampman was thought to be in a distressed state. The officers checked on him and he was unresponsive. At 04:10 hours, the officers pulled him out of the car and simultaneous to this BC Ambulance Primary Care Paramedics arrived on scene. The paramedics initiated CPR by maintaining an airway and compressions. Advanced Life Support Paramedics arrived on scene at 04:17 hours and took



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over resuscitation efforts. They were able to regain vital signs at 04:23 hours and they transported Mr. Kampman to Abbotsford Regional Hospital.

Mr. Kampman arrived at the Emergency Room and was assessed immediately. On initial presentation he was in a coma, acidotic and had a high temperature. The hospitalist suspected a drug overdose and began protocols to stabilize the acidosis and high temperature. He was eventually stabilized but remained in a coma with a suspected anoxic brain injury. He was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit where he remained on life support and despite all efforts he died on July 2, 2011 at 23:54 hours.

An autopsy was performed and the pathologist testified that Mr. Kampman died as a result of an Acute Hypoxemic Brain Injury due to Cardiorespiratory Arrest due to Cocaine Associated Confusional State and Restraint. Toxicology testing revealed benzoylecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine, at a level (4.30 mg/L). The toxicologist testified that this level is in a range where non-lethal concentrations overlap with those found in fatal overdoses.

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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:**

To: Commanding Officer – E Division  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Municipal Chiefs of Police of BC  
All Municipal Police Departments

1. Develop and implement ongoing or periodic refresher training for responding officers to identify whether or not a subject is suffering from a medical or psychological condition, and consider the implementation of a policy making it mandatory for officers directly involved with an individual to make this assessment.

#### Coroners Comment:

*Please refer to Coroner's Comments related to recommendation # 2 as it also relates to training police officers to identify symptoms that are indicative of a medical or psychological condition. The jury heard that the limited training that is available typically takes place during the recruitment stage and that there does not appear to be any ongoing or periodic training available that deals with this subject matter. The jury also heard from the officers that they were not aware of any internal policy requiring them to make assessments when dealing with people displaying such symptoms.*

2. Develop and implement a mandatory initial training in identifying the symptoms and alternate responses to individuals displaying behaviour consistent with Cocaine Associated Confusional State.

#### Coroner's Comment:

*The jury heard testimony from Mr. Kampman's friend, the waitress at The Duke of Dublin Pub and various police officers that Mr. Kampman was exhibiting behaviours (high energy, excitability, paranoia) and symptoms (high temperature, sweaty, chest pains) consistent with a Cocaine Associated Confusional State. The jury also heard that the police receive limited training (normally upon hiring at RCMP depot or the Justice Institute) to assist with the recognition of agitated individuals displaying symptoms of stimulant intoxication and that this training is not mandatory throughout the province. The jury heard that individuals displaying such behaviours are oftentimes in need of immediate professional medical attention thus an ability to recognize such symptoms swiftly may assist in preventing a tragic outcome.*

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3. Review current practices and training respecting control and communication during multi-officer operations with a view to developing situational based plans.

#### Coroner's Comment:

*The jury heard that Cst. Reid and Cst. Bader were both in the neighbouring backyard prior to arresting on Mr. Kampman. They also heard that the two officers did not engage in any conversation or plan about how to safely and effectively deal with Mr. Kampman. Instead, Cst. Reid made the decision to jump the fence and run at Mr. Kampman without communicating his intention to do so to Cst. Bader. This act may have put both the officers and Mr. Kampman at increased risk for harm.*

4. Consider the installation and constant use of cameras in the back of all police vehicles used in transporting or detaining individuals.

#### Coroner's Comment:

*The jury heard that the police cruiser that Mr. Kampman was placed in was not equipped with a camera to monitor the actions of individuals placed in the back seat. The officers testified that they placed Mr. Kampman in the back seat but that no one stayed in the vehicle with him to monitor his condition. The officers testified that they monitored Mr. Kampman's condition from outside the vehicle. The jury heard differing testimony about how long Mr. Kampman may have been in the back seat of the police cruiser in an unresponsive state, requiring medical attention. Based on the varying reports the jury was left with no way of accurately knowing how long Mr. Kampman was unresponsive. The jury believed that a camera would have answered this question for them.*

5. Consider the implementation of a policy to ensure constant visual monitoring be maintained on the individual for whom the EHS has been called for.

#### Coroner's Comment:

*The jury heard that Mr. Kampman was placed in the back of the police vehicle where he became unresponsive. The officers testified that they remained outside of the vehicle whilst keeping an eye on Mr. Kampman's wellbeing. There was differing testimony regarding the extent to which the officers monitored Mr. Kampman from outside the vehicle and it remains unknown exactly how long Mr. Kampman may have been in the back seat of the vehicle in an unresponsive state. Based on the differing testimony it could have been anywhere between 1-5 minutes.*