



Mail Stop #306  
14200 Green Timbers Way  
Surrey, BC  
V3T 6P3

March 4, 2014

Ms. Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner  
Chief Coroner's Office  
Metrotower II  
Suite 800 - 4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4N2

**RE: Patrick Roy WILDER (B: 1952-07-23)  
Coroner's Inquest into the Death of  
BCCS Case File#: 2011-0448-0032**

Your file      Votre référence

2011:0448:0032

Our file      Notre référence

2011CP-0172

**RECEIVED**

MAR 17 2014

MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

As a result of this tragic incident, we undertook a review of related RCMP Policy and wish to provide a response to the following Coroner's Jury recommendation directed to "The Commanding Officer of the RCMP (E-Division) and the Chiefs of all Municipal Police Departments in BC":

*Recommendation 1*

*Review current practices and policies related to the current file management systems and ensure appropriate retention periods for information relating to the confirmed suicide attempts and other mental health incidences which police and medical intervention was required.*

**Response:**

During the Inquest, counsel for Mr. Wilder's family was concerned about the RCMP's non-retention of a previous 2003 file in which Mr. Wilder had attempted suicide in the cells of the Cranbrook Detachment of the RCMP. The fact that this file had "purged" left open to

speculation the idea that the RCMP may have destroyed (or withheld) it for some reason. The Jury believed that the file might at least have been valuable to the members who were dealing with Mr. Wilder when he committed suicide in 2011. In any case, on the stand at the Inquest, S/Sgt. Marko Shehovak could not say whether that 2003 PIRS file would have been retained had the detachment switched to PRIME earlier than 2007. The perceived possible discrepancy between PIRS and PRIME retention periods caused the Jury to wonder whether or not PRIME retention periods for mental health apprehensions and/or suicides were reasonable and appropriate.

What S/Sgt. Shehovak did not or could not say was that the 2003 PIRS file simply purged properly according to its routine 60 month retention period (which is the same retention period for Mental Health Act files on PIRS and PRIME). The chief difference between the two records management systems vis-à-vis file retention periods is that PIRS purged *automatically* when files reached their retention date; PRIME, currently does not.

Protecting the privacy of its citizens is of critical importance for the government of a free and democratic society. An agency of the Government of Canada, based on the *Privacy Act*, must only gather personal information related to its operating programs, keep that information for only a limited period of time based on its reasonable value to the agency, and then destroy it. The RCMP has established its retention periods in consultation with the National Archivist under the *Library and Archives of Canada Act* and considers, in the totality of circumstances, balancing the protection of sensitive mental health information with police need to know, that 60 months is a reasonable period for the retention of files in which the RCMP deal with individuals under provincial mental health legislation.

Thank you for bringing these recommendations to my attention. The RCMP is committed to learning from tragic incidents such as these and to developing policies and procedures that will help prevent their recurrence.

Respectfully,



A/Commr. Norm Lipinski, MBA, LLB, OOM  
Criminal Operations Officer  
E Division Core Policing



City of Port Moody  
Police Department

Chris J. H. Rattenbury  
Chief Constable

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

3051 St. Johns Street, Port Moody, B.C. V3H 2C4 (604) 461-3436 Fax: (604) 937-1314

April 3, 2014

**RECEIVED**

APR 10 2014

Lisa Lapointe  
Office of the Chief Coroner  
Metrotower II  
Suite 800-4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2

MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

I write with respect to your letter dated March 6, 2014 in regards to the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Patrick Roy Wilder (BCCS File 2011-0448-0032). The Port Moody Police Department has now reviewed the one recommendation provided to us by the jury. For clarity, the recommendation requests that we "review current practices and policies related to the current file management systems and ensure appropriate periods for information relating to the confirmed suicide attempts and other mental health incidences which police and medical intervention was required."

During my review of our current record retention situation, I have learned that our agency has not purged any files since our start with the PRIME system in 2002. All of the files that have been generated since that time are still available and accessible. The decision to purge files from our system is a decision that we would only make after careful consideration and at this time we have no intention of purging our files at any time in the near future. In the unlikely event that we decide that files should be purged, we will be cognizant of the recommendations of the jury and consider the merits of extending the retention dates of files involving conditions noted above.

I hope that you will find this resolution in keeping with the spirit of the jury's recommendation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

C. Rattenbury  
Chief Constable



records management system to PRIME. Though the data from the former record management system was not uploaded to PRIME, it is still available through an independent query.

In summary, the Vancouver Police Department appreciates the importance of retaining information about suicide attempts and other occurrences related to mental health. The VPD practice of retaining records indefinitely meets the spirit of jury recommendation #1 of the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Patrick Roy WILDER by providing access to relevant information through PRIME, as well as access to historical records through another dataset.

Sincerely,



Jim Chu  
Chief Constable

/kc



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APR 14 2014

MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

1006277

APR 09 2014

Ms. Lisa Lapointe  
Chief Coroner  
Ministry of Justice  
Metrotower II  
800 – 4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 2014, regarding your Recommendation concerning the death of Patrick Roy Wilder.

Please be assured that your letter is receiving prompt attention and that a more detailed response will be sent to you at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you,

Correspondence Coordinator  
Health Services Policy and Quality Assurance Division

4455 Clarence Taylor Crescent  
Delta BC V4K 3E1

phone 604.946.4411  
deltapolice.ca



April 15, 2014

Office of the Chief Coroner  
Metrotower II  
Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4N2

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APR 17 2014

MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

**Attention: Lisa LaPointe, Chief Coroner**

Dear Chief Coroner LaPointe:

**Re: Coroner's Inquest into the death of:  
WILDER, Patrick Roy  
BCCS Case File #2011-0448-0032**

I write in reply to your letter dated March 6, 2014, regarding the above referenced matter, and the Verdict of Inquest, containing the inquest jury's recommendations, attached thereto.

The Delta Police Department has carefully considered the jury's recommendation that it, along with the RCMP E-Division and the Chief Constables of all Municipal Police Departments in BC, review practices and policies related to current file management systems, and ensure appropriate retention periods for information relating to confirmed suicide attempts and other mental health incidents that required police intervention.

A number of years ago the RCMP and Municipal Departments undertook a detailed review of police records retention periods, in order to ensure appropriate and harmonized records retention, in particular in the, then recently provincially mandated, police PRIME records system. Specific to records of suicide attempts and other mental health incidents, the review confirmed and maintained the previous retention period of five years. PRIME policy, and Delta Police Department policy, grants the discretion to extend that retention period, based on an assessment of the particular circumstances and, in particular, risks to the subject of the report, police officers or others.

As per the Verdict at Inquest, Presiding Coroner Marzinzik commented that information, relating to prior suicide attempts by Mr. Wilder, was not available to police officers interacting with Mr. Wilder at the time of his death, and that this was due to the

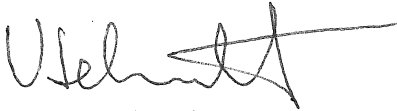
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information being purged from an old police computer records management system and not transferred to the existing system. The Delta Police Department also retains an old records system; the Police Information Retrieval System (PIRS). Records in PIRS are deleted at the conclusion of their incident-type specific retention period (as per the provincially harmonized retention period schedule). The Delta Police Department implemented the provincially mandated PRIME records management system in 2005. All records of suicide attempts and other mental health incidents recorded in PIRS have, therefore, reached the end of their retention period. Unless specifically extended and transferred to the PRIME system, due to incident specific unique circumstances, such records are no longer accessible in PIRS. Due to system limitations, records in the PRIME records management system have, to date, not been purged upon reaching their incident-type specific retention periods; however, PRIME purge functionality is currently in development.

The Delta Police Department is aware of, and takes very seriously, the often delicate balance that is required to be struck between retaining police information about individuals for only limited periods of time, and extending retention periods for investigative or individual/public safety reasons.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to the jury's recommendation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Helmuth', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Volker Helmuth,  
Manager,  
Information Services Branch

C.c. Jim Cessford, Chief Constable





# New Westminister Police Department

David Jones  
Chief Constable

April 22, 2014

Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner  
Office of the Chief Coroner  
Metro Tower II, Suite 800  
4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4N2

**RECEIVED**

APR 24 2014

MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

**Re: Coroners Inquest Into the Death of WILDER, Patrick Roy  
BCCS Case File No. 2011-0448-0032**

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Thank-you for your letter dated March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, wherein you enclose a copy of the Verdict at Inquest resulting from an inquest into the death of Patrick Wilder.

You advise that Jury recommendation #1 is directed to the New Westminister Police Department and is therefore brought to our attention for consideration.

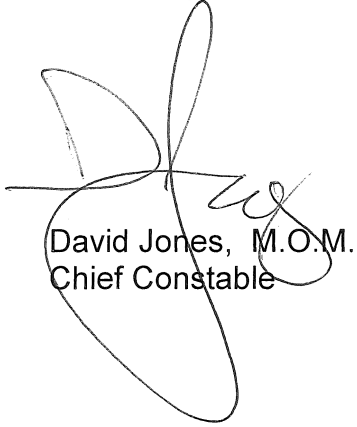
Also, you request a response as to what action the New Westminister Police plans to take, or has taken, with regard to these recommendations.

The jury recommendation #1 is that the New Westminister Police Department "*review current practices and policies related to the current file management systems and ensure appropriate retention periods for information relating to the confirmed suicide attempts and other mental health incidences which police and medical intervention was required.*"

The New Westminister Police Department has reviewed our current file management systems with regard to retention periods for attempted suicides and mental health incidents. The retention periods are mandated by the Canadian Center for Justice Statistics and the BC Crime Statistics Committee (BCCSC), and the New Westminister Police Department uses these mandated retention periods. The retention periods for federal codes are set by the Library & Archives Canada in Ottawa and the other retention periods are set by the BCCSC.

We trust this deals with the jury's recommendations in the WILDER Inquest.

Yours truly,



David Jones, M.O.M.  
Chief Constable