



VERDICT AT INQUEST

File No.: 2011:0448:0032

An Inquest was held at Invermere Court House, in the municipality of Invermere in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates October 21-24, 2013

before Larry Marzinik, Presiding Coroner, Patrick Roy

into the death of Wilder Roy, 58, Male, Female

and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: May 10th, 2011 21:50 hrs mdt

Place of Death: 5040 Hot Springs Rd., Fairmont Hot Springs, B.C.

Medical Cause of Death

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

Antecedent Cause if any: b) Gunshot wound to head 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: Accidental Homicide Natural Suicide Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 24th day of October AD, 2013

Larry Marzinik Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

Handwritten signature of Presiding Coroner

Handwritten mark

## VERDICT AT INQUEST

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

FILE No.: 2011:0448:0032

WILDER

Surname

Patrick Roy

Given Names

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

Presiding Coroner: Larry Marzinzik

Coroner Counsel: Roderick MacKenzie

Court Reporting/Recording Agency: L. Vermiere, Verbatim Words West Ltd.

Participants/Counsel: Wilder Family / A.C. Ward - Department of Justice and RCMP / D. Kwan

The Sheriff took charge of the jury and recorded 11 exhibits. Five 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 is not intended to be considered evidence nor is it intended in any way to replace the jury's verdict.*

On Tuesday, May 10, 2011, Mr. Wilder called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in Invermere, BC to make a report concerning actions of the police and a neighbouring business owner in Fairmont Hot Springs, BC. Mr. Wilder had initiated a related complaint to the police with regards to the neighbouring businessman on May 5, 2011.

Mr. Wilder had a subsequent telephone conversation with a police supervisor on the evening of May 10, 2011. He voiced his concerns and frustrations over a property line dispute with the neighbouring business owner. At the end of the telephone conversation Mr. Wilder advised that he intended to commit suicide and hung up the telephone.

Police officers made attempts to contact Mr. Wilder by cellular phone, and attended his residence in Fairmont Hot Springs to check on his welfare. Mr. Wilder had left the property on foot and may have taken a firearm with him. A search of the area was conducted by the police and family members however Mr. Wilder was not located. After consultation with the family, the police left the residence with a request for the family to advise when Mr. Wilder returned to his residence.

Later that evening the police were advised Mr. Wilder had returned to his residence. The police checked the residence which was locked upon their arrival. When they received no response from within the residence to communication efforts from the exterior, they utilized a key provided by a family member to enter. After entry the police located Mr. Wilder laying supine on a bed with a shotgun on his chest.

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The shotgun barrel was pointed towards his head, under his chin. Mr. Wilder's hand was observed near the trigger of the shotgun. The police officers and family members made attempts to communicate with and dissuade Mr. Wilder from taking his life. However, Mr. Wilder verbally indicated his intentions and then discharged the shotgun causing the fatal gunshot wound at 2150 hours.

An autopsy was performed which confirmed that the self-inflicted gunshot wound was the instantaneous cause of death. Toxicology results indicated the decedent's level of intoxication from alcohol was moderate at the time of his death.

Mr. Wilder had previously attempted to commit suicide twice on August 5, 2003. Due to this information being purged from police records the police officers, who attended to Mr. Wilder's residence on May 10, 2011, were not aware of these previous attempts.

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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: The Commanding Officer of the RCMP (E-Division) and the Chiefs of all Municipal Police Departments in BC:

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.

Coroner's Comments: The Jury heard evidence that information relating to prior suicide attempts by Mr. Wilder was not available to the police officers interacting with Mr. Wilder at the time of his death. This was due to the information being purged from an old police computer management system and not transferred to the existing police computer file management system.

To: The Minister of Health for the Province of British Columbia:

2. Consider the feasibility of establishing a network of mental health professionals available to assist front line police officers during their investigations of and interactions with suicidal persons.

Coroner's Comments: The Jury heard evidence that there were no immediately available mental health resources for the police in this situation. The jury advised they felt this would enhance and provide much needed support to the police when responding to critical mental health situations.