



VERDICT AT CORONERS INQUEST

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CORONER'S INQUEST PURSUANT TO
SECTION 38 OF THE CORONERS ACT, [SBC 2007] C 15, INTO THE DEATH OF

FACCHIN

SURNAME

Maurizio Angelo

GIVEN NAMES

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

in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates October 17, 18, 19 and 20, 2016

before: Isis van Loon, Presiding Coroner.

into the death of FACCHIN Maurizio Angelo 50 Male Female
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name) (Age)

The following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: June 4, 2014 at 15:47 pm

Place of Death: #102-6947 Walker Avenue Burnaby, BC
(Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death:

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Excited Delirium
Due to or as a consequence of

Antecedent Cause if any: b) Cocaine Toxicity
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: Cardiomegaly

Classification of Death: Accidental Homicide Natural Suicide Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 20th day of October AD, 2016

Isis van Loon
Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

Presiding Coroner's Signature

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PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INQUEST

Presiding Coroner: Isis M. van Loon
Inquest Counsel: Bryant Mackey
Participants/Counsel: Mark East, Rory Makosz/RCMP
Court Reporting/Recording Agency: Helga Sieviewright, Verbatim Words

The Sheriff took charge of the Jury and recorded six exhibits as entered. Twenty one witnesses were duly sworn/affirmed and testified.

PRESIDING CORONER'S SUMMARY

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

Maurizio Angelo Facchin consumed drugs and alcohol in the apartment of an acquaintance through the evening of June 3, 2014 to the next morning. On June 4, 2014, the resident became concerned with Mr. Facchin's increasingly bizarre and agitated behavior. He had taken all of his clothes off and was alternately lying on a bed and getting up and walking, naked and sweating, around the apartment. Eventually he walked through a sliding glass door. The resident called 911 at 1436 hours. Three Burnaby Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers arrived consecutively between 1445 hours, and 1449 hours. The three officers formulated a plan and entered the building. Testimony revealed that Mr. Facchin came from the bedroom and charged the leading officer who backed up and deployed a conducted energy weapon (CEW, commonly referred to as a Taser) twice at approximately 1500 hours. This did not appear to have any effect and the officers jumped on Mr. Facchin. He was placed face down and his hands were cuffed behind his back. At 1502 hours they placed Mr. Facchin in a recovery position. He was unconscious and turning blue. The officers started CPR. Within less than a minute other RCMP officers arrived and brought in an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which advised 'no shock'. CPR was continued while paramedics arrived. When there was no successful recovery, the paramedics consulted a physician who determined time of death at 1547 hours.

The forensic pathologist who conducted the autopsy explained that the combined effects of cocaine toxicity, means of restraint, and cardiomegaly (enlarged heart) led to Mr. Facchin's death. The jury heard evidence that cocaine had negative effects on the heart, and that Mr. Facchin had a pre-existing heart issue – cardiomegaly.

Evidence was presented that excited delirium refers to a condition, often caused by cocaine toxicity, which result in serious metabolic disturbances. People in this state are highly agitated, and act bizarrely.



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They are very strong, and don't experience pain or get tired. CEWs will often not work on them. Stress hormones associated with agitation elevate risk. For a person of Mr. Facchin's size, being placed face down also increases the risk. The jury heard that restraint should be rapid and sufficient in order to minimize risk. Immediate medical attention is required as there is a high mortality rate.

The RCMP's use of force expert testified that excited delirium can be difficult to recognize. The Vancouver Police Department's Mental Health expert testified that it was important for police to gain control as safely and quickly as possible, and confirmed that excited delirium can be difficult to recognize quickly. As a person in this condition can rapidly become unresponsive, paramedics should be standing by.

After deliberations, the jury classified the death of Mr. Facchin as accidental and put forward the following recommendations to the Office of the Chief Coroner for dissemination.



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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 Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

- 1) Ongoing officer training should include case studies on the early recognition and appropriate response(s) to persons with excited delirium.

Coroner's Comments: The Jury heard that it can be difficult to recognize when a person is in this state.

- 2) The RCMP is requested to review dispatcher training with the agency that provides dispatch services to optimize the information presented to police, particularly with respect to the early recognition of potential cases of excited delirium.

Coroner's Comments: The Jury heard that early recognition is important as this is a life threatening emergency.

- 3) RCMP policy for the use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) notes that when persons are acutely agitated or delirious those persons may be at a higher risk of death. Policy further recommends that whenever possible RCMP members anticipating the use by them of CEWs should request the assistance of emergency medical services. The RCMP is requested to ensure that all active members are aware of this policy, not only those trained in the use of CEW.

Coroner's Comments: The Jury heard that CEWs may not work on people who are acutely suffering from excited delirium, and that it was a serious condition requiring paramedics to be on standby at the location.