



C514564

October 31, 2019

\*AMENDED\*

Lisa Lapointe  
Chief Coroner  
Email: Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2019 in which you provided the Verdict of Inquest concerning the death of William Ryan Fisher. Further to the update provided by the Honourable Mike Farnworth on May 1, 2019, I can advise you that BC Corrections has further considered the recommendations of the coroner's inquest as follows:

**Recommendation 1 – Review policies to ensure constant monitoring of inmates in the Segregation Units of correctional centres.**

**Presiding Coroner Comment: Testimony heard by the jury indicated it was not policy for the inmates to be observed on the cell camera monitors constantly. The jury felt constant monitoring with regard to Mr. Fisher may have possibly led to an early detection of suspicious and/or abnormal behavior. They stated constant monitoring would possibly lead to earlier intervention in cases of medical emergencies.**

Adult Custody Policy and North Fraser Pretrial Centre (NFPC) Standard Operating Procedures were reviewed. Inmates placed in segregation are video monitored and checked at intervals no longer than 30 minutes, or more frequently, if required.

**Recommendation 2 – Increase staff to ensure constant monitoring of inmates in the Segregation Units of correctional centres.**

**Presiding Coroner Comment: The jury heard testimony that the cell camera monitors were viewed by staff intermittently due to staffing levels and other duties. The jury indicated additional staff should be utilized to monitor segregation screens without interruptions on a twenty-four hour basis. This could assist in early detection and prevention of illicit drug use.**

*Protect communities, reduce reoffending*

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Ministry of  
Public Safety and  
Solicitor General

Corrections Branch  
Adult Custody Division

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Increasing the number of staff in units is not feasible given the relative size of these areas and staff workspace. Constant invasive monitoring of inmates in segregation units may exacerbate behaviours, including behaviours of inmates with mental health needs. In addition to staff posted to segregation units, daily health rounds are conducted by a manager, nurse, and mental health screener. One on one staffing is presently an option in the event that 24/7 monitoring of an individual is deemed necessary for health and safety reasons.

**Recommendation 3 – Increase the number and size of the Central Control monitors in the segregation units of correctional centres.**

**Presiding Coroner Comment: Testimony was heard by the jury that each monitor at the central monitoring area had camera views of fifteen cells. The jury believes that providing additional, and larger, monitors for the observation of inmates within the segregation units would allow the corrections staff a better opportunity to identify abnormal and/or suspicious inmate activity.**

Two monitors are used to monitor segregation units at NFPC. Existing monitors are configured to maximize the viewing area of individual cells. Larger or additional monitors may obstruct staff's line of sight to the unit. The individual cells in segregation units display as a grid pattern on monitors. Larger monitors may result in grids that are larger, but the increase may not be discernible. Increasing monitor size may result in an increase in the number of individual cells that are displayed, but may reduce the display size of each individual cell.

I am satisfied that all recommendations have been reviewed and addressed in a comprehensive manner. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Macpherson  
Provincial Director

pc: Rick Lacroix  
Har Cheema

**NORTH FRASER PRETRIAL CENTRE  
DEATH OF INMATE – FEBRUARY 25, 2016**

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE			
	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIME FRAME	RESP.
1. Review policies to ensure constant monitoring of inmates in the Segregation Units of correctional centres.	Adult custody policy and North Fraser Pretrial Centre (NFPC) Standard Operating Procedures were reviewed. Inmates placed in segregation are video monitored and checked at intervals no longer than 30 minutes, or more frequently, if required.		Completed	
2. Increase staff to ensure constant monitoring of inmates in the Segregation Units of correctional centres.	Increasing the number of staff in segregation units is not-feasible given the relative size of these areas and staff workspace. Constant invasive monitoring of inmates in segregation units may exacerbate behaviours, including behaviours of inmates with mental health needs. In addition to staff posted to Segregation Units, daily health rounds are conducted by a manager, nurse and mental health screener.		Completed	
3. Increase the number and size of the Central Control monitors in the Segregation Units of correctional centres.	Two monitors are used to monitor segregation units at NFPC. Existing monitors are configured to maximize the viewing area of individual cells. Larger or additional monitors may obstruct staff's line of sight to the unit. The individual cells in segregation units display as a grid pattern on monitors. Larger monitors may result in grids that are larger, but the increase may not be discernible. Increasing monitor size may result in an increase in the number of individual cells that are displayed but may reduce the display size of each individual cell.		Completed	