



Province of British Columbia

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

SALVANY SAILES

SURNAME

JUAN CARLOS

GIVEN NAMES

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

in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates: July 9th to July 13th, 2018

before: Susan Barth, Presiding Coroner.

into the death of SALVANY SAILES (Last Name), JUAN CARLOS (First Name), 42 (Middle Name) (Age), Male Female

The following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: October 19, 2016 (Date), 2328 (time)

Place of Death: 1547 Balmoral Ave (Location), Coquitlam, BC (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death:

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Cardiac Arrest Due to or as a consequence of

Antecedent Cause if any: b) Self-inflicted Stab incise wounds of neck and chest 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 13 day of July AD, 2018

Susan Y. Barth Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

Sy Barth Presiding Coroner's Signature



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**PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INQUEST:**

Presiding Coroner: Ms. Susan Y. Barth

Inquest Counsel: Mr. Bryant Mackey

Court Reporting/Recording Agency: Verbatim Words West Ltd.

Participants/Counsel: Mr. D. Kwan and Mr. M. East, counsel for the Attorney General of Canada

The Sheriff took charge of the jury and recorded 3 exhibits. 17 witnesses were duly sworn 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. This is to assist in understanding, but does not replace, the jury verdict and recommendations. This summary is not evidence.*

Juan Carlos Salvany Sailes was described as an outgoing, intelligent and ambitious man who was well-loved by friends and family. He was very involved in the 12-step community and understood the struggle of substance use; he was passionate about helping others in their process while engaging in his own path of recovery.

Mr. Salvany Sailes participated in several recovery programs in an effort to manage substance use issues; the last one prior to his death was a residential program at the Last Door Recovery Centre which is funded by the Fraser Health Authority. He completed a 90-day program and moved on to a residential, private pay component with Last Door, then eventually transitioned to community living. While living on his own in the community, he continued to participate in alumni meetings while mentoring others in the program. He had a key to the facility, however after experiencing a relapse, he was asked to cease participation as a mentor and in the alumni program and return his key. People who knew him indicated that this experience had a significant impact on Mr. Salvany Sailes.

On October 19, 2016 at approximately 2300 hours, a series of 9-1-1 calls were made from four different homeowners on Balmoral Avenue in Coquitlam reporting a man acting strangely. As the 9-1-1 calls progressed, further information supplied indicated that the man was carrying a large piece of wood, was covered in blood and wanted to kill himself. At the fourth home, Mr. Salvany Sailes broke through the back door and searched the kitchen until he found a large kitchen knife and inflicted neck and chest injuries to himself with the knife.

Upon police arrival (Coquitlam RCMP and New Westminster Police Department), Mr. Salvany Sailes was witnessed by officers collapsing to the ground with the knife still in his hand. When he did not respond to commands directing him to drop the knife, police discharged a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) then used force to restrain him and apply handcuffs.



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BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) paramedics attended the scene and found Mr. Salvany Sailes unresponsive and pulseless upon initial assessment at 2328 hours. Resuscitation protocols were initiated and performed en route to Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) where resuscitation attempts continued but were ultimately unsuccessful.

A pathologist conducted a post mortem examination and concluded that Mr. Salvany Sailes died from stab and incised wounds of neck and chest. Toxicology analysis revealed a methamphetamine level within a range where toxic effects have been reported. Prescription medications were detected at therapeutic and sub-therapeutic levels.



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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 Ministry of Health, and  
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions,  
in collaboration with the Health Authorities and BC Centre for Substance Use:**

1. Implement a standard practice of care in addressing addiction and addiction recovery.

**Presiding Coroner Comment:** *The jury heard evidence that we lack a comprehensive addiction and treatment system in British Columbia and that a system of best practices needs to be available to citizens of BC who are experiencing addiction, relapse and recovery.*

2. Offer addiction recognition training and continued education in addiction medicine to all health care professionals.

**Presiding Coroner Comment:** *The jury heard evidence that there is a need for trained leadership in addiction medicine and for educated professionals to support the recognition of addiction and to provide continued care of individuals struggling with addiction and recovery.*

**To The Last Door Recovery Society, and  
All Health Authorities in the Province of British Columbia:**

3. Re-examine the importance of mental health treatment in regards to addiction recovery, and to make available mental health services on-site to support clients.

**Presiding Coroner Comment:** *The jury heard evidence that mental health services previously available to the residents at Last Door Recovery Society are now no longer funded and that treating mental health and addictions concurrently is a vital component of treating people with addiction issues.*