

October 12, 2018

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CHIEF CORONER

Chief Coroner Lisa Lapointe  
Office of the Chief Coroner  
PO Box 9259  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J4

Dear Ms. Lapointe,

**Re: Verdict at Inquest into the death of ROOD, Travis**  
**BCCS Case File #: 2015-0380-0005**  
**IIO File #: 2015-053**

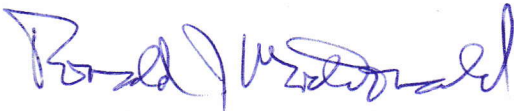
Thank you for your letter dated September 27, 2018 in relation to the death of Travis Rood. Jury recommendation number one suggests the IIO “*review and clarify policy and procedures with respect to officer safety and evidence collection after an incident in which the IIO and the RCMP are involved.*”

This situation arose due to a lack of communication between the IIO and the involved agency about the needs and expectations of the IIO during an investigation. Unfortunately, in this instance that lack of communication led to the officer remaining in contaminated clothing pending interview and evidence collection. This was not and is not the IIO’s practice, nor was it requested in this case.

In an effort to prevent future misunderstandings, the IIO has taken a proactive approach and has increased meetings with both front line officers and senior police leadership. One of the key focal points of these meetings is to encourage open communication through the course of a file with IIO Investigators to ensure investigative integrity is maintained while remaining receptive to collaboratively resolving issues as they occur. In particular, we encourage discussion of issues that may impact the health and well-being of all involved in an incident, including subject and witness officers. This is consistent with our new Five Year Strategic Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the jury’s recommendation.

Yours very truly,



Ronald J. MacDonald, QC  
Chief Civilian Director