

17 May 2019

Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner, Province of British Columbia
Office of the Chief Coroner
PO Box 9259
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J4

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CHIEF CORONER

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

**Re: Verdict at Inquest into the death of:
SALVANY SAILES, Juan Carlos
BCCS Case File # 2016-0380-0010**

Thank you for providing Northern Health the opportunity to consider and respond to the recommendation of the jury directed to the Northern Health Authority.

Recommendation 3 is for all health authorities to 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.

Over the course of 2018/19, Northern Health has reviewed the continuum of mental health and substance use services in the north. We accept your recommendation regarding the importance of ongoing examination of these services in relation to the needs of the population.

Based on our recent review, we are undertaking the following actions:

- Addressing barriers to urgent care through innovative programming such as the Rapid Access Clinic in Prince George, the Mobile Mental Health and Substance Use Unit in Terrace, and Intensive Case Management Services in Prince George, Fort St. John, Terrace, and Smithers.
- Partnering with community agencies and peer workers across the north to ensure supportive recovery, and availability of day programming services in each of our health service delivery areas.
- Establishing Local Improvement Teams throughout the north focussed on improving the ability of first responders to connect individuals in overdose situations with continuing care in the community.

Additionally, Northern Health, First Nations Health Authority and First Nations Communities are in the process of implementing mobile mental health and substance use teams in 10 northern communities: Quesnel, Fort St. John, Dease Lake, Fort Nelson, Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Prince George, Hazelton, Terrace,

and Haida Gwaii. The teams are composed of regulated professionals such as registered social workers and nurses.

We take services to those living with mental health and addictions issues very seriously, and welcome the opportunity to review how we, along with our community and provincial partners, can provide services in the best possible way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Ulrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cathy Ulrich
President & Chief Executive Officer
Northern Health

cc: Michelle Lawrence, Executive Lead, Mental Health and Substance Use