



### 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

**DESJARLAIS**

SURNAME

**TRAEVON THOMAS KEITH**

GIVEN NAMES

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

in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates: November 28, 2022- December 8, 2022

before: Margaret Janzen, Presiding Coroner.

into the death of Desjarlais Traevon Thomas Keith 17  Male  Female  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name) (Age)

The following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: September 13, 2020 PM Hours  
(Date) (time)

Place of Death: 2258 Ware St. Abbotsford, BC  
(Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death:.

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

Antecedent Cause if any: b) Hanging  
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 8th day of December AD, 2022

M. Janzen  
Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

M. Janzen  
Presiding Coroner's Signature



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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: Minister of Children and Family Development**

1. Expedite the policies and legislation regarding the new approach favouring family-based services versus contracted staff led residential services.
2. Redirect funding from staff led residential services and allocate resources supporting the new four tier model of family-based services.
3. Expedite the implementation of the new IT System for all children in care.
4. Ensure that the new IT System is accessible by all team members providing services to the child.

#### **To: Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Xyólheméylh (Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society)**

5. Consult with family, care team, and Indigenous communities in support of ongoing re-assessing of placement.
6. Collaborate with Indigenous communities to re-assess current and future placement for Indigenous children in care to create a culturally appropriate and safe environment.
7. Implement a new model of care in the interim to reflect the Indigenous model of care provided to children, for example Teddy's Home model of care.
8. Increase the compliment of qualified Indigenous staff offering direct services to clients.
9. Share with children in care the same cultural opportunities provided to staff.
10. Create policy to ensure staff are aware that missing children are to be reported immediately to the police.



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**To: Xyólheméylh (Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society)**

11. Share information in real time with other services providers on the care team.
12. Report each point of contact with child and have comprehensive notes on file.
13. Provide alternative therapy methods, for example, visits with therapy horses or dogs to better promote connection to the child.

**To: Rees Family Services Inc.**

14. Evaluate existing direct service staff to determine appropriate cultural competence in consultation with the Indigenous communities.
15. Create policy for cultural competence standards for staff, in consultation with Indigenous communities.
16. Create policy that requires that current and future staff members are able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Indigenous People's history in Canada.
17. Contract Elders, in consultation with Indigenous communities, to be available in the homes where Indigenous children reside.
18. Create a policy, in consultation with Indigenous communities, that will promote the Wholistic Wellness of Indigenous children who reside in a Rees house.