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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
2023PSSG0048-000943  
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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
BC Coroners Service

### **Inquest into death of Howard Barry Shantz to begin in July**

VICTORIA – The BC Coroners Service has confirmed that a public inquest into the death of Howard Barry Shantz will begin on July 4, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Burnaby Coroners Court (20th floor, 4720 Kingsway, Metrotower II, Metrotown).

The death of Shantz, 63, was reported to the BC Coroners Service by the Lytton RCMP on Jan. 13, 2020.

Under Section 18(2) of the Coroners Act, inquests are mandatory for any deaths that occur while a person was detained by or in the custody of a peace officer.

A coroner's inquest is a public inquiry that serves three primary functions:

- to determine the facts related to a death including the identity of the deceased and how, when, where and by what means the individual came to their death, as well as a classification for the death;
- to make recommendations, where appropriate and supported by evidence, to prevent deaths in similar circumstances; and
- to ensure public confidence that the circumstances surrounding the death of an individual will not be overlooked, concealed or ignored.

Lyn Blenkinsop, presiding coroner, and a jury will hear evidence from witnesses under oath to determine the facts surrounding this death. The jury will have the opportunity to make recommendations aimed at preventing deaths under similar circumstances. A jury must not make any finding of legal responsibility or express any conclusion of law.

For more information about inquests, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/inquest-schedule-jury-findings-verdicts>

Livestreaming allows the public and media to virtually attend an inquest. The same rules apply as for in-person attendance at an inquest. Reproduction, broadcasting and publishing, including through social media, of the BC Coroners Service live video stream and its content is prohibited.

To access the live stream, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/inquest-schedule-jury-findings-verdicts/inquestlivestream>

### **Learn More:**

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[jury-findings-verdicts](#)

BC Coroners Service: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/coroners/>

**Contact:**

Ryan Panton  
Manager  
Strategic Communications and Media  
Relations  
BC Coroners Service  
236 478-1582

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