



INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
BC Coroners Service

Date confirmed for coroner's inquest into death of Melvin Erickson

VICTORIA – A coroner's inquest into the death of Melvin Viggo Gary Erickson will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, at the Burnaby Coroners' Court (20th floor, 4720 Kingsway, Metrotower II, Metrotown, Burnaby).

The death of Erickson, 52, was reported to the BC Coroners Service on Dec. 22, 2019, following events with members of the Coquitlam RCMP.

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.

Susan Barth, 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.

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 inquest proceedings is prohibited. Supreme Court accredited media are permitted to record the proceeding solely for the accuracy of their notes. The recording is not to be broadcast in any form. Accredited media members must provide proof to the sheriff and visibly display their accreditation at all times when they are recording or using electronic devices in court. Recording for any other purpose or by anyone without appropriate accreditation is strictly prohibited.

Learn More:

For more information about inquests, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/inquest-schedule-jury-findings-verdicts>

To access the livestream, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life->

[events/death/coroners-service/inquest-schedule-jury-findings-verdicts/inquestlivestream](#)

To learn more about BC Coroners Service, visit: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/coroners>

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