



CORONER'S REPORT INTO THE DEATH OF

MACISAAC SURNAME

HAROLD RODERICK GIVEN NAMES

OF

VICTORIA MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE

I, Lori Moen, a Coroner in the Province of British Columbia, have investigated the death of the above named, which was reported to me on the 8th day of January, 2013, and as a result of such investigation have determined the following facts and circumstances:

Gender: [X] MALE [ ] FEMALE
Age: 46 YEARS
Death Premise: RESIDENCE
Place/Municipality of Death: VICTORIA Date of Death: DECEMBER 8, 2012
Municipality of Illness/Injury: VICTORIA Time of Death: UNKNOWN

MEDICAL CAUSE OF DEATH

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Hypoxia
Antecedent Cause if any: b) Carbon monoxide poisoning
Giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating underlying cause last: c)

(2) Other Significant Conditions Contributing to Death:

By WHAT MEANS Running gasoline generator in a small, enclosed space

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATH [ ] ACCIDENTAL [ ] HOMICIDE [ ] NATURAL [X] SUICIDE [ ] UNDETERMINED

Date Signed: SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

[Signature]
Lori Moen, Coroner
Province of British Columbia

Handwritten initials

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**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

Harold Roderick MacIsaac resided alone and was known to be a very private individual. Mr. MacIsaac did not have a regular family physician but sought medical attention as and when needed. Mr. MacIsaac was not known to have any on-going medical issues, but he did have a history of depressive episodes and a remote history of suicidal thinking and behavior.

Mr. MacIsaac had been experiencing significant personal stress commencing the end of August 2012 related to occupational and academic matters that had arisen in his life.

On January 8, 2013, members of the Saanich Police Department entered Mr. MacIsaac's locked suite in response to a request for a well-being check as associates and family members had not had any contact with him for some time. Mr. MacIsaac was found collapsed on the floor. It was apparent that he had been deceased for some time. There was a gas-powered generator in the room which had been running until its fuel source was exhausted. The windows in the small room were all closed and there were towels under both of the doors leading out of the room where Mr. MacIsaac and the generator were found. The generator and the operator's manual for it, which was located nearby, were both clearly labeled with warnings that using a generator inside can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and death within minutes. There were three small appliances plugged into the generator. Investigation confirmed that there had been no power outages or issues with respect to the power supply to Mr. MacIsaac's suite during the time frame in question and all the power outlets in the suite were functional. It was also determined that the generator was operational when supplied with fuel.

Forensic examination of Mr. MacIsaac's computer by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police revealed that Mr. MacIsaac was an adept, daily computer user and that his last computer access was late in the day on December 7, 2012, when he was working on a document he had created relating to the events that were causing him significant stress. It was also determined that a large volume of downloaded files had been deleted earlier that day and in the days prior. A review of the unallocated or deleted area, of Mr. MacIsaac's hard drive located numerous references to the word "monoxide" as well as a specific hit for a Wikipedia page entitled "Carbon Monoxide Poisoning". Because these references were located in the unallocated area of the hard drive, there are no available details as to when the data relating to these hits was accessed although it would have been sometime after April 2012 when the hard drive was installed in the computer.

While no specific suicide note was located, there was additional evidence consistent with Mr. MacIsaac's intent to take his own life. In this regard, Mr. MacIsaac was aware that his landlord, who lived in the home immediately adjacent to Mr. MacIsaac's suite on the same property, was away on December 8, 2012. From past experience, Mr. MacIsaac would also have known that the two other occupants of the landlord's home would be gone for the day December 8<sup>th</sup> and that the sound of the generator running would thus be more likely to go undetected.

There is no evidence of any sightings or activity on the part of Mr. MacIsaac after December 8, 2012.

There was no evidence of foul play.



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**POST MORTEM/TOXICOLOGY EXAMINATION**

No anatomical cause of death was identified on autopsy.

Toxicology revealed a lethal blood carboxyhemoglobin level consistent with carbon monoxide poisoning from inhalation of the exhaust fumes produced by the gas-powered generator.

**CONCLUSION**

I find that Harold Roderick MacIsaac died in Victoria on December 8, 2012 of hypoxia due to carbon monoxide poisoning. I classify this death as suicide and make no recommendations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori Moen".

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Lori Moen, Coroner  
Province of British Columbia

Handwritten initials, possibly "LM", in the bottom right corner of the page.