



Province of British Columbia

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

DEANNA RENEE

GIVEN NAMES

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

in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates: May 7-May 15, 2018

before: Brynne Redford, Presiding Coroner.

into the death of Desjarlais Deanna Renee 27 Male Female (Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name) (Age)

The following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: April 20, 2016 Unknown (Date) (time)

Place of Death: Hawthorne Park Surrey, British Columbia (Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death:

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

Antecedent Cause if any: b) Due to or as a consequence of

Giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating underlying cause last. c) Possible Drug Overdose

(2) Other Significant Conditions Contributing to Death:

Classification of Death: Accidental Homicide Natural Suicide Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 15th day of May AD, 2018

BRYNNE REDFORD Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

[Signature] 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: The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

1. Make changes to the Provincial Policing Standards for Missing Person Investigations to require mandatory participation in the Provincial Dental Data Bank (PDDB) for all provincial and municipal police forces, including the Vancouver Police Department, to assist with the identification of missing persons.

To: The Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

2. End the practice of denying income assistance benefits based on the existence of outstanding warrants.

To: The Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

3. Integrate access to income assistance benefits into release planning in correctional facilities for all individuals who have been sentenced or remanded into custody. This should be available to both new and continuing income assistance recipients.

To: The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

4. Significantly increase the availability of easily-accessible low-barrier and publicly-funded housing as a core harm reduction measure for Indigenous women, women with HIV, vulnerable women and women recently released from custody.



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To: The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

5. Release planning, including counselling services, must begin at the point of intake into a correctional centre to ensure that an individual has basic identification so that access to health and social services and other key supports is not jeopardized upon release.
6. Implement training for corrections staff regarding community resources available to individuals upon release.
7. Repurpose the currently vacant open living facility associated with the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women, or such facilities elsewhere, as non-custodial transitional housing for vulnerable women released from custody.

To: The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, The Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and The Minister of Health

8. Engage in cooperative ministerial action, within the appropriate framework of privacy and security safeguards, to implement an effective continuum of services to foster communication and information sharing among providers of health and social supports and custodial care.

To: The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, The Minister of Health, The Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and The Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

9. Increase culturally appropriate support services for Indigenous women and provide training for community supports and corrections staff on available Indigenous supports within the community.

To: The Attorney General and The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

10. Reduce incarceration rates for minor and administrative offences through the expanded use of alternative sentencing approaches.