



**Report to the Minister of Justice  
and Attorney General  
Public Fatality Inquiry**

Fatality Inquiries Act

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at the Law Courts Building  
in the City of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta,  
(City, Town or Village) (Name of City, Town, Village)  
on the 22 to 24 day of June, 2011, (and by adjournment  
year  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_),  
year  
before Judge F.E. LeReverend, a Provincial Court Judge,  
into the death of Lorraine Adolph 68  
(Name in Full) (Age)  
of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta and the following findings were made:  
(Residence)

**Date and Time of Death:** December 4, 2008 at approximately 12:00 hrs.

**Place:** The grounds of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta.

**Medical Cause of Death:**

("cause of death" means the medical cause of death according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death as last revised by the International Conference assembled for that purpose and published by the World Health Organization – The Fatality Inquiries Act, Section 1(d)).

Cold Exposure

**Manner of Death:**

("manner of death" means the mode or method of death whether natural, homicidal, suicidal, accidental, unclassifiable or undeterminable – The Fatality Inquiries Act, Section 1(h)).

Accidental

**Circumstances under which Death occurred:**

Lorraine Adolph, a 68 year old woman, with a history of paranoid schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder was admitted to Alberta Hospital on December 2, 2008. She smoked and sought ground privileges to leave her building to smoke. She was granted the privilege to leave for 15 minutes for that purpose on December 3. On December 4 at approximately 11:00 hours she left the building for that purpose but did not return. The weather was sub-zero. It was snowing. She was found frozen on December 11 by an abandoned building on the hospital grounds.

**Recommendations for the prevention of similar deaths:**

A secure outdoor area be made available to those patients who wish to smoke and would not otherwise receive ground privileges.

While the hospital has implemented a new search plan, I recommended the appointment of one person a shift, a search leader, to be in charge of all aspects of search and return. This would include the appointment of a search team, the training of the team, the equipment, the search and the communication between the different directors, hospital staff and search team during a search. This person would communicate with police or other search services if the patient is not returned to the unit within a reasonable period of time having regard to the weather conditions and/or condition of the patient.

The search leader would conduct sufficient drills to ensure that all buildings and wooded areas and fields in each “quadrant” be searched thoroughly in sufficient time having regard to weather conditions and the condition of the patient to rescue and return a patient unharmed.

The hospital to have access to snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles or similar equipment to allow timely searches in inclement weather.

DATED November 7, 2011 ,

at Edmonton , Alberta.

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Judge F.E. LeReverend  
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta