

## Verdict of Coroner's Jury

**Deceased:** Raymond Stewart Eagle

**Date and time of Death:** January 5, 2010 at 03:00 am

**Place of Death:** Yellowknife Stanton Territorial Hospital

**Cause of Death:** Part 1 a) Atherosclerotic Coronary Artery Disease  
Part 2 Remote Cranial Trauma

**Manner of Death:** Natural

### **Circumstances under which death occurred:**

On August 3, 2006, Mr. Raymond Eagle was found with an injury on his head and lying on the road in Yellowknife he was taken by ambulance to the Stanton Territorial Hospital emergency room where he was treated and medically cleared. Raymond Eagle went into RCMP custody and remained there until he was found in distress and then transported by ambulance back to the emergency room. He was medically evacuated to the University of Alberta Hospital. While there, he was treated for an acute sub-dural hematoma. He stabilized and was returned to Yellowknife at the Stanton Territorial hospital. He remained in extended care in a comatose state until his death on January 5, 2010 due to Atherosclerotic Coronary Artery disease.

### **Recommendations:**

1. **Department of Health and Social Services:** Establish a Community Consultative Group consisting of members from the medical community, Stanton Territorial Hospital, the RCMP, the Salvation Army, and other agencies and interested parties to explore the possibility of establishing:
  - a. Drug, alcohol and substance rehabilitation centre in Yellowknife and
  - b. A "half way house" or similar residence, staffed by qualified professionals to care for people who have substance abuse issues and are homeless, when they are referred there by either medical staff or the RCMP
2. **Commissionaires:** Recommend that at matron/guard shift change that they be required to do a physical cell check together and review all C-13 forms and incident reports.
3. **RCMP and Commissionaires:** provide written guidelines and have larger information posters on the wall in "cells" area on: For examples, head trauma symptom sheet, rouseability chart, blood alcohol poisoning and other common medical concerns or drug overdose.
4. **RCMP and Commissionaires:** Ensure assessment of responsiveness occurs in a manner that is consistent with operational policies.

5. **Stanton Territorial Hospital:** On the “Service Report” Discharge instructions and follow-up include “discharge to” that is similar to the accompanied by portions of the ‘Emergency Minor Treatment Record’. At least, include a box for RCMP on discharge.
6. **All Parties:** Ensure all forms completed. Do not leave blank areas and use the most current version of forms.
7. **RCMP and Commissionaires:** Ensure that guards closely observe and record in log book prisoner movements and conditions, where practicable. Log books to add column to identify method of observation.
8. **RCMP and Stanton Territorial Hospital:** Develop a protocol to facilitate within ethical boundaries and applicable legislation, the sharing of information about persons whose care and custody is transferred between them.
9. **Stanton Territorial Hospital:** Work with its professional care providers, nurses, physicians and their governing bodies if necessary to establish understandings and protocols about what information can be shared by them to outside agencies while maintaining compliance with their professional obligations regarding patient care confidentiality. Special consideration should be made for vulnerable members of society to ensure they receive the follow-up care they require.
10. **RCMP:** That all personnel on shift responsible for the care of prisoners must fully read and understand the information contained on the C-13 form for each prisoner.
11. **RCMP, Stanton Territorial Hospital and Commissionaires:** Formalize interagency processes related to the handling of intoxicated persons.
12. **Stanton Territorial Hospital:** Review and amend as necessary the Emergency Department Short Stay Admission Alcohol Abuse/Detoxification form and the process which would trigger its use. Consider including a does not apply box.
13. **Stanton Territorial Hospital:** If a patient is unable to provide consent prior to medical evacuation, all reasonable attempts will be made to contact the next of kin.
14. **Stanton Territorial Hospital:** Review and amend as necessary the “Stanton Regional Hospital Emergency Guidelines Modified Nice Criteria for Management of Mild Head Injury Flowchart” and the process which would trigger its use.
15. **RCMP and Commissionaires:** Ensure matrons/guards are provided with continuous training opportunities and support to remain current on policies and procedures.
16. **Department of Health and Social Services, RCMP, Stanton Territorial Hospital and Commissionaires:** For all recommendations seek out and consider input from front line staff prior to implementation.