

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF SEVEN FIRST NATIONS YOUTHS:
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**IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT OF
THE THUNDER BAY POLICE SERVICE**

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

A. Overview

On June 28, 2016, the verdict in the Joint Inquest into the Deaths of Seven First Nations Youths in the City of Thunder Bay (“Joint Inquest”) was released along with 145 recommendations directed to various institutional parties. Of the 145 recommendations, approximately six (6) relate to policing matters and were directed to, among other institutions, the Thunder Bay Police Service (the “Service”). All of the recommendations that refer to the Service have been accepted. This Report is prepared pursuant to Recommendation 144 to provide an update on implementation status.

B. Recommendations Directed to All Parties

A number of recommendations arising out of the Joint Inquest are directed to all parties. The Service acknowledges and accepts these recommendations and reports as follows:

Recommendation 7 – Guiding Principles - Complete

This recommendation is accepted by the Service. Implementation is being guided by the statements contained in this recommendation.

Recommendation 143 – Annual Report on Implementation Status – Complete

This recommendation is accepted by the Service and this Report constitutes the Service’s Report thereunder.

Update June 2019-2020:

The last report was submitted in 2019, this submission constitutes the ongoing support of that annual report.

Recommendation 144 – Process of Posting Annual Reports - Complete

The Service submits its report to the Coroner and also provides NAN with its completed yearly updates for publication on NAN’s website. Further, the Service publishes its annual

Inquest reports at www.thunderbaypolice.ca

Recommendation 145 – Revise Policies and Procedures – Complete

The Service has completed its changes to policies and procedures. Any further changes, when identified, will be made during normal operational reviews and implemented as appropriate.

C. Recommendation involving Police and other Institutions

Recommendation 48 – Grade 8 Visit Program - Complete

The Grade 8 Visit Program (“Visit Program”) was created and implemented proactively by the Service during the hearing phase of the Joint Inquest and prior to the release of the verdict and recommendations.

First Nations Visits: June 2019 – 2020 - Ongoing

In the Spring of 2019 Community Services Branch members flew to Martin Falls to meet with community members and youth.

The Service expanded an Archery Program through various grants to assist with outreach activities. Sgt. Campagna and Community Services officers attended Aroland First Nation to conduct outreach activities through their “Chose Life” programs. The officers offered archery instruction and weekly competitions. A number of visits culminated in a championship tournament with prizes and awards. This activity was aimed at youth in the community but assisted to energize the entire community to come together around one event.

In the fall of 2019 officers attended Constance Lake, Aroland, Long Lake 58 and Ginogaming First Nations to provide presentations and meet with the youth.

In February 2020 the Aboriginal Liaison Unit (ALU) Officers and School Resource Officer (SRO) joined Lakehead Public Schools to travel with students to Collins, Ontario by snowmobile. Students had the opportunity to interact with officers and experience remote access living.

In March 2020 TBPS Community Services Officers drove on the Northern roads to Fort Hope,

Neskantaga, Webequie and Nibinamik. Outreach and youth engagement activities were conducted to build relationships and share information on coming to school in Thunder Bay. Due to the COVID pandemic the visits have been postponed since March 2020 but will begin again once the restrictions are lifted.

Update (on Student Lists): June 2019 – 2020 - Ongoing

As of January 2020, we are still waiting on this information. The Service has made contact with the schools and we await further discussions on receiving the student lists from each individual education authority.

Update (on Ambassadors): June 2019 – 2020 - Ongoing

We have been unable to find an Ambassador due to other commitments on their part; however on the visits to Northern Communities the members have been utilizing guides. The presence of these individuals who serve as guides has proven invaluable.

Update (On Service/NAPS joint presentation): June 2019 – 2020 - Complete

As of October 2018, all NAPS officers have received the presentation from the Service's ALU officers, and our Safety Presentation video has now been sent to all NAPS detachments for them to use on a go forward basis.

Recommendation 91 – Working Group – Substantially Complete but will be Ongoing

This recommendation was proposed jointly by the Service and other parties. It has been accepted by the Service and implementation is ongoing.

- **i. The need to ensure timely reporting to police of all missing person matters that involve a Student (In Progress).** The Service can confirm that it is working with Matawa Learning Centre ("Matawa"), Denis Franklin Cromarty High School ("DFC"), Keewatinook Okimakanak ("KO") and the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council ("NNEC") to prepare missing person protocols and contact information resources in an effort to synchronize policies and procedures among all on-call workers across different

educational organizations.

- **ii. & iv. Public Awareness/Social Media Search (Complete).** In January 2018, a sub-group was created to work on a Public Awareness Campaign. It is a three-fold campaign:
 1. Missing Person & Social Media Information Presentation. This presentation was created by the Service's Social Media Coordinator, Scott Paradis and was presented to the larger working group and uploaded onto the Service's website in May 2018, for all to see and learn from. It is an educational document relating to missing persons and social media to limit misinformation and provide a procedure on taking down missing person posts when the individual is located.
 2. The creation of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) video and postcard, developed in partnership with Generator Inc. Both the PSA and the Video will cover off three key messages on the procedure of reporting missing persons:
 - a. make reasonable effort to locate the person;
 - b. assess potential risk for the missing person; and,
 - c. contact police.

The postcards will be 5"x7" and will be part of the Student Orientation Package.

3. Media Launch for Public Awareness Campaign, which took place June 26, 2018 at 2pm at the Brodie St Library. All named organizations in this recommendation were in attendance. It was in an 'open house' format, with an elder present for opening prayer/smudging. The video was played, and the postcards were blown-up and displayed on the walls.
- **iii. Information Sheets (Complete).** The working group has created an information form with descriptors/identifiers, which has been approved by their respective legal counsel and is now incorporated into the Student Orientation Package. A template was created and will be adapted by the education organizations to suit their purposes.
 - **v. Press Releases (Complete).** In December 2017, the Service, in consultation with the Service's FOI Coordinator, completed and presented to the working group, Student Consent Forms that relate to media releases and release of student information by the police to on-call staff/educational organization staff. The Student Consent Forms are to

be included in the Student Orientation Package, remain in the custody of the educational facilities and presented to TBPS when required (ie. missing student, criminal or provincial infraction/incident involving a student). All the education organizations are using this form, except NNEC. At this time, TBPS is still waiting to hear back from NNEC's legal counsel.

Press releases and media coverage were included in the Public Awareness Campaign.

- **vi. Best Practices for Interviews (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **vii. & viii. Internal and Global Search Plans (Complete).** Educational facilities have been working on their internal/global search plans for several months and presented to the group in February 2018. Due to legal restrictions, these plans had to remain individual, but discussion took place regarding having them all stored in one location. The Service's involvement in these two tasks is minimal—guidance was provided along the way.

The global search plans are dependent upon the internal plans. Each respective educational organization identifies who their liaison will be from their internal plans to communicate with police as part of the global plan. The handout on Best Practices for Community Searches was developed under Recommendation #94.

- **ix. & x. Missing Person Risk Factors & Missing Person Questionnaire (Complete).** These forms have been completed by the working group, reviewed by each respective legal counsel and will be used by education organizations to suit their purposes.
- **xi. Training (Complete).** Training has occurred on a request basis. Continued training can occur on request, with assistance from Lakehead Search and Rescue (LSAR).
- **xii. Training Case Scenario (Complete).** An information/training session relating to

TBPS Missing Persons Protocol and volunteer searchers took place Jan 18-19, 2018, and February 8, 2018, hosted by the TBPS, for the working group and their leaders. This information session included a scenario based portion that covered the following:

- a) When to report to police
- b) What to report to police
- c) Risk factors
- d) Stages of the investigation
- e) Interviews
- f) Media releases
- g) Place of safety
- h) Parent/guardian consent forms
- i) Volunteer Searchers

The PowerPoint presentation was forwarded onto the working group chair to distribute to the group for future reference and education.

- **xiii. Consultant (In Progress).** The Service has hired an external consultant (Leisa Desmoulin) regarding TBPS training modules and curriculum covering cultural issues relevant to the Indigenous community, as part of a larger organizational change project. The Committee's first meeting took place on May 27th, 2020.

Update (Overall): June 2019 - 2020

The Service has completed training of all of its members during the time frame it was provided. As with any organization we continue to hire new person(s) and as such will provide training when it is identified and offered.

The Service continues to be in discussion with NAN to finalize the outstanding items outlined in this recommendation.

Update on Public Awareness/Social Media Campaign): Complete

The Media launch took place June 26 2018 at the Brodie Street Library with all named organizations in attendance. It was an 'open house' format, with an elder present for opening prayer/smudging. The video was played and the postcards blown up and pasted on the walls.

The event was successful and well received by all named organizations. A re-launch was conducted with NAN in the fall of 2019 in order to maintain awareness.

Recommendation 94 – Multilingual Joint Search Protocol – Complete:

All meetings are complete and a protocol has been established. One final meeting will occur with NAN representatives to ensure the protocol is sufficiently represented in our internal policy.

Recommendation 96 – Joint Task Force with LCBO to Deter Underage Drinking (Complete).

The “Runner Project Plan” at TBPS remains operational, when staffing complement permits.

Update June 2019-2020:

In January 2020 the Community Oriented Response Unit was created to focus on identified community issues. One of the focuses of the Community Oriented Response team is neighbourhoods in which there are LCBO’s. The presence of this Unit has proven as a deterrent for underage individuals accessing alcohol.

Recommendation 97 – Public Campaign to Deter Second Party Purchases of Alcohol (Complete).

Update from June 2019 – June 2020:

TBPS has completed its portion of this task. The LCBO was to reach out to NAN, NNEC, KO among others to finalize its public campaign.

Recommendation 115 – Safety Audit of River Areas (In Progress).

Riverway/Floodway Monitoring Project: The Service continues to monitor the identified high-risk areas, with daily foot patrols three times a day.

Data Collection from Reporting Mechanism: The following information has been gleaned

from the project for 2019:

Average age	35.76
Median age	34
Oldest	74
Youngest	11
# of 22 year olds	12
# of 21 year olds	7
# of 20 year olds	2
# of 19 year olds	1
# of 18 year olds	3
# under 18 years old	22
Total persons	1191
Total males	563
Total females	266

Incidents 2019

January	43
February	49
March	87
April	54
May	46
June	78
July	167
August	136
September	132
October	93
November	72
December	55

Total Incidents 1012