

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF SEVEN FIRST NATIONS YOUTHS:
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Curran Strang and Jordan Wabasse**

**IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT OF
THE THUNDER BAY POLICE SERVICE**

September 21, 2022

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 2020-2021:

The last report was submitted in 2020, 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. While the recommendation obligation has been fulfilled the TBPS will continue the program indefinitely.

First Nations Visits: June 2020 - 2021 - Ongoing

The in person visits were postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Community Inclusion Team used the time to develop interactive presentations for future visits and for online engagement. Community Services Officers engaged youth locally through the Archery Program when restrictions were not in place.

The Community Inclusion Team including the School Resource Officers continued presentations online to students within our jurisdictions.

The Community Inclusion Team is also partnering with a media relations company and a youth mentor to create new content and anti-gang presentations to be used during engagement activities when COVID restrictions allow. Online engagement will begin in the fall if in person presentations are still restricted.

June 2021 – 2022 Update:

In July 2022 Community Outreach officers collaborated with the Canadian Military at the Canadian Junior Rangers summer program, Camp Loon, to deliver the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). The camp was held at Springwater Lake, 50 kilometers north of Geraldton. Between July 16 to 22nd 6-9 officers taught basic archery principles to 59 Junior

Rangers from 17 First Nations, as well as instructors comprised of 22 Canadian Rangers, who are part-time reservists and 45 other military personnel.

Update (on Student Lists): June 2021 – 2022 - Ongoing

The TBPS is still waiting on whether each individual education authority will provide student lists. This year none were received. This has been furthered delayed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Update (on Ambassadors): June 2021 - 2022 - Ongoing

The COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on travel. However NAN developed a workshop on Community Visit Protocols and the members of the TBPS Community Inclusion Team participated in the online training.

Update (on Service/NAPS joint presentation): June 2020 - 2021 - 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 without their respective communities.

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"), Dennis 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).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **iii. Information Sheets (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **v. Press Releases (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **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).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **ix. & x. Missing Person Risk Factors & Missing Person Questionnaire (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **xi. Training (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **xii. Training Case Scenario (Complete).** No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.
- **xiii. Consultant (Complete).** 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 and the work is ongoing.

June 2021 – 2022 Update:

The work contemplated has been completed with the Service implementing Diversity Reconciliation Training to all members of the Service. Five – 40 hour sessions and 124 members of the Service have received the training so far. The training will continue until all members of the Service, both sworn and civilian, have received it.

Update (Overall): June 2021 - 2022

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

No further update as recommendation was completed and reported on in previous yearly reports.

Recommendation 94 – Multilingual Joint Search Protocol – Complete:

Update: June 2020 - 2021

The Joint Search Protocol has been finalized and is now in circulation.

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

Update: June 2020 – 2021:

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

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

Recommendation 115 – Safety Audit of River Areas (Complete).

While the recommendation obligation has been satisfied the TBPS will continue to conduct safety audits of river areas on an ongoing permanent basis.

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 project funding came to an end in mid-2021 and therefore the statistics, as found in last years report are not available. However, given the success of this project foot patrols will still continue to occur at the high-risk areas. In 2021 a thirty-two (32) percent reduction was noted in incidents at the waterways. Unfortunately the number of individuals on the waterways remains consistent but the incidents in which they are involved are lower. Please note that should funding be granted to continue the administrative task of tracking statistics, they will be reported on.