

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF SEVEN FIRST NATIONS YOUTHS:
Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper, Kyle Morriseau, Paul Panacheese,
Curran Strang and Jordan Wabasse**

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

Thursday, June 20, 2019

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 2018-2019:

The last report was submitted in 2018, this submission constitutes the ongoing support of that annual report.

Recommendation 144 – Process of Posting Annual Reports - In Progress

The Service is not aware of any process for publishing implementation reports but will certainly consider any model that all parties are willing to adopt.

Update June 2018-2019: Complete

The Service has submitted its report but is not aware of any process for publishing implementation. We will consider any model that all parties are willing to adopt. Please note that we post our annual Inquest reports on our web page at www.thunderbaypolice.ca

Recommendation 145 – Revise Policies and Procedures – Complete

The Service made changes to its policies and procedures proactively prior to the Joint Inquest. To the extent that any accepted recommendation still in the implementation phase requires revision of a specific policy or procedure, such changes will be made during normal operational reviews and will be implemented as appropriate.

Update June 2018 – 2019: Complete

The Service has completed its changes to policies and procedures. Only one part of Recommendation 94 remains outstanding with NAN. Any further changes if 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.

Content from 2018 Report:

On August 22nd, 2017 the Service’s Aboriginal Liaison Unit (ALU) Officers, and Sergeant Stein from the Service’s Community Services Branch attended Keewaywin and Deer Lake with KO Education Authority. The Service also attended Fort Severn on August 24, 2017 on short notice.

On August 15, 2017, TBPS had planned to visit Kingfisher, however the trip fell through as

there was no available seating on the NAPS Court plane. Also in August 2017, TBPS planned on attending North Caribou Lake for a student and community visit however due to political issues in the community, the trip was put on hold. Since that time, the trip has been rescheduled twice as a result of issues within the community and the visit has yet to occur. We will continue to reach out to find a mutually acceptable date to complete the visit.

Despite the foregoing, the Service did complete an additional six (6) visits so far in the 2018 year: (1) Sandy Lake on February 5, 2018; (2) Fort Severn on February 12, 2018; (3) Keewaywin on February 15, 2018; (4) Kasabonika on March 1, 2018; (5) Armstrong on May 25, 2018; (6) Fort Hope on June 6th and 7th, 2018 ; The Service is in the early planning stages of participating in a Northern Ice road trip with NAPS, to Fort Hope, Neskantaga, Webequie and Nibinamik. This trip would serve as a Safety Education Presentation as well as boot hockey event, bringing the police and students together in some friendly boot hockey. This trip is being planned for the early part of 2019.

The Service sends out media advisories prior to their visits, to those in the community, in case any of them wish to attend.

Additionally, the Service has requested the September 2018 student lists from each educational organization but has not received this information as of yet. On June 20th, 2018, during a group meeting it was requested that the Organizations provide the Service with the outstanding information. The Organizations advised they would provide us with the student lists as soon as possible.

Ambassadors: We remain in contact with one Ambassador, Steve, who will be used this summer for the First Nations Community Visits. However, the opportunity has yet to come to bring Steve up north with the Service's Aboriginal Liaison Unit. Unfortunately, the second chosen Ambassador was not able to commit his time to our initiative due to school commitments.

Service/NAPS joint presentation: In January of 2018, the Service's ALU officers and Sergeant Stein met with Deputy Chief Morrison of NAPS, and their Training Inspector. Since March 2018, they have been presenting to NAPS officers (during their Training Block) the Safety Video/Presentation that they give to the students/staff in the First Nations Communities. In April 2018, ALU officers in conjunction with our Social Media Coordinator updated the Safety Video.

The Service was successful in obtaining the 2018-2020 Proceeds of Crime Grant that will fund the Matawa Learning Centre (MLC) - Thunder Bay Police Indigenous Youth Engagement Project. The Project will form partnerships with youth (12-25 years) and their families, and local Indigenous education providers. All involved will participate in community based programs and activities to improve trust and long-term community wellness and safety outcomes for Indigenous youth attending school in Thunder Bay.

TBPS and MLC will also be working with the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma for Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program to utilize a specialized Indigenous P.A.R.T.Y. presentation to support MLC students transitioning in Thunder Bay. The Indigenous P.A.R.T.Y. program raises awareness of the risks and dangers involved in the use of alcohol, drugs, solvent abuse, and the risks of being in unsafe spaces if involved in these activities. The P.A.R.T.Y. program brings students together with law enforcement, paramedics, rehabilitation staff and injured survivors to impact future decisions. The goal is to link Indigenous youth to positive inclusive activities supporting their learning journey for success and to realize future goals. TBPS will be provided with new engagement tools to use with other education groups and Indigenous students in the city and region.

Update (on visits to First Nation's Communities): June 2018-2019 - Ongoing

The Service continues to work in partnership with Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service and private airlines to allow Officers to visit remote First Nations Communities to meet with youth who will be attending Thunder Bay for School. In 2018 the visit program included (1) Sandy Lake, Fort Severn, Keewaywin, Kasabonika, Armstrong and North Caribou Lake First Nations. As of

January 2019, officers have visited Wunnumin Lake, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, Webequie and Eabametoong First Nations. The later trips tie in with our successful Proceeds of Crime grant and is a partnership between Matawa First Nation, Matawa Learning Centre, NAPS and the TBRHSC.

Officers visited (1) Armstrong on June 26th, 2018, (2) Neskantaga on August 20, 2018. The ALU officers and our Social Media Coordinator (Scott Paradis) made the trip to North Caribou Lake on July 3, 2018. Unfortunately due to the weather, Officers were unable to attend Sachigo Lake, however they were able to attend Wunnumin Lake Feb 4-5, 2019 where they presented cyber safety to grades 6-8 and City safety to grades 9-10. On February 18, 2019 Community Service Officers from the Aboriginal Liaison Unit, School Resource, Sgt Campagna, NAPS officers and a Matawa guide began a Northern trip on the ice roads. During this time they visited Fort Hope, Neskantaga, Webequie and Nibinamik. Further, officers conducted cyber bullying and city safety presentations including the P.A.R.T.Y. program, brought hockey equipment, played floor hockey and attended community events. Officers returned home February 22, 2019 from what can only be described as a very successful trip. All of the communities were aware of officers attending well in advance and participation in each community was positive.

Officers continue to actively participate in various sporting engagements with youth such as archery and bowling as examples. The Matawa Learning Centre provides a list of activities monthly which our officers then attend when possible. Our Proceeds of Crime Grant and Jump Start Grants assist in making this possible.

Update (on Student Lists): June 2018-2019 – Ongoing

As of October, we are still waiting on this information. KOSS and MATAWA have provided the Service with an estimated number of students but has not yet confirmed.

Update (on Ambassadors): June 2018-2019 - Ongoing

We have been unable to find an Ambassador due to other commitments on their part; however our use of a guide as an example proved invaluable.

Update (On Service/NAPS joint presentation): June 2018-2019 - Ongoing

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. We are reaching out to NAPS to determine next steps (ie curriculum, present to new hires, etc.)

In April 2018, ALU officers in conjunction with our Social Media Coordinator updated the Safety Video. The presentation also included some photographs of popular places to go in Thunder Bay, and places not to go.

Recommendation 91 – Working Group – In Progress

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

Update from June 2017 to June 2018:

- **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 on-call workers across different educational organizations.

In August 2017, the Service provided their Missing Person Policy to the working group for reference and to assist the educational facilities with forms they will incorporate into their student packages. Student Orientation Packages (also called the Missing Person Protocol Guide) will contain: Student Information Form; TBPS Media Release and

Information Consent Form; Missing Person Bulletin; and the Missing Persons Questionnaire. The working group worked collaboratively with each other to develop the content of these forms, and the packages have been approved by each organizations legal counsel.

- **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 closure for missing person posts.
 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 is taking place **June 26, 2018** at 2pm at the Brodie St Library. All named organizations in this recommendation will be in attendance. It will be 'open house' format, with an elder present for opening prayer/smudging. The video will be played, and the postcards will be 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 required.
- **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 (Substantially Complete).** We are in the process of organizing a joint

training day for all organizations named. There will be a morning session that will have each organization go through their newly created Missing Person protocol/policies/Protocol Guide, and an afternoon session will pull everyone together for a joint mock scenario of a missing person. We have been in contact with Lakehead Search and Rescue (LSAR) to assist with the training (and to provide all on-call workers the required training for searches. It has been difficult trying to establish available dates. We are still working on what this joint training session will look like, but are hopeful to have a date set in mid-September when most of the on-call workers are back from summer break.

In addition, the Walk A Mile Training is substantially completed with 270 members (85%) trained with more sessions planned.

- **xii. Training Case Scenario (Complete).** An information/training session relating to TBPS Missing Persons Protocol and volunteer searchers took place Jan 18-19, 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.

Update (Overall): June 2018-2019

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.

As NAN is the lead on this Recommendation, we await their call to all parties to complete this recommendation.

Update on Public Awareness/Social Media Campaign): June 2018-2019

The Media launch took place June 26th 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. We will be conducting a re-launch with NAN in September in order to maintain awareness.

Recommendation 94 – Multilingual Joint Search Protocol (Ongoing).

Update from June 2017 to June 2018:

Legal Counsel from the TBPS and Legal Counsel from NAN have been working jointly on the protocol based on the information provided by Sgt Belcamino (21 factors mentioned in the year-one report), and the protocol has been completed and approved by both organizations. It has been properly translated.

We are now working together to seamlessly fit this protocol in with the #91 Recommendation, with the assistance of LSAR.

Update from June 2018 to June 2019:

We have met three times in the past year along with Lakehead Search and Rescue however due to training requirements NAN has asked us to look at our MOU with search and rescue in order to work out a format where NAN could work exclusively with search and rescue without interfering with Police protocols. This is ongoing.

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

Update from June 2017 to June 2018:

In consultation with the Service, the LCBO has completed their protocol relating to identifiers of 2nd party purchasers, and their reporting mechanism for reporting suspected 2nd party purchasers to TBPS. LCBO employee training was completed in August 2017, and they started the pilot September 1, 2017. The Service sent out a service-wide email advising of LCBO's new protocol. The "Runner Project Plan" remains operational, when staffing complement permits.

Update June 2018-2019:

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

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

Update from June 2017 to June 2018:

The first phase of the campaign (mentioned in the year-one report), went active in June 2017. Phase two was stalled due to scheduling of internal briefings within the LCBO, but started working actively with a local production company to produce short videos suitable for social media. In order to determine the most effective content, they were reaching out to students from DFC, KO and Matawa. The Service advised LCBO they will assist with any social media distribution once completed.

Update from June 2018 to June 2019:

TBPS has completed its portion of this task 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).

Update from June 2017 to June 2018:

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 2017:

Incidents 2017		Average age	35.52877
2017-Jan	9	Median age	33
2017-Feb	9	Oldest	69
2017-Mar	3	Youngest	13
2017-Apr	25	Persons under 21	27
2017-May	42	Persons under 20	16
2017-Jun	82	Persons under 19	13
2017-Jul	69	Persons under 18	9
2017-Aug	75		
2017-Sep	46	Total persons	1211
2017-Oct	52		
2017-Nov	24	Total males	335
2017-Dec	15	Total females	157
TOTAL	451		
		Total incidents	459

We estimate that with police intervention over 100 lives were saved in 2017.

The total incidents in the first column does line up with the number of persons involved in the total incidents in the second column as there may be an overlap of incidents / individuals in each incident

Waterway Brochure: The Service in partnership with City of Thunder Bay created an information brochure that was distributed in March 2018, via the post office to all residents/businesses along the identified Riverway/Floodway to help increase public safety and well-being along and near local watercourses and rivers. The brochure provides information relating to Floodway Project; the river audit; project partners; and how community members can help.

Safety Audit Committee: The safety and security specialist provided his audit report in August, 2017 and it went before, and was approved, by City Council August 28th, 2017. The report came

with 10 Recommendations, which the working group are addressing (either as individual entities; smaller working groups; or collectively within the larger working group).

These are the ten recommendations:

- 1) Formal Recognition of the Significance of Land & Water Resources by Indigenous Community Members
- 2) Construct & Install Creatively Designed Barriers, lights and cameras to Prevent Unlawful Access underneath Bridge & Tunnel Structures
- 3) Formal Educational Partnership with All Local Institutions
- 4) Safety Improvements for Roadway Pedestrian Crossings
- 5) Working Protocol with LCBO to Minimize “Runners”
- 6) Lighting Enhancements to Promote Visibility & Safety
- 7) Celebrated” Pedestrian Connection to the Mouth of McVicar Creek at Lake Superior
- 8) Immediately Eradicate All Visible Occurrences of Graffiti
- 9) Direct Linkage to the Northwest Community Mobilization Network
- 10) Maintenance/Removal of Overgrown Vegetation in All Study Areas

Many of these recommendations have fallen under the responsibility of the City of Thunder Bay, and have been addressed and implemented—as indicated in the City of Thunder Bay’s report.

Recommendation 1 and 3 are being worked on by the group as a whole, and we are in the early stages of planning an annual fall event to be held at the river locations and/or Marina Park, with a focus on bringing the youth and broader community together to:

- Raise awareness about the cultural significance of land and water
- Celebrate the water
- Raise awareness about safety concerns in certain watercourse/river areas
- Have a barbecue/feast

Nibi-Mamowechitiwin. Youth water gathering event was organized by a sub-committee and took place on September 21, 2018

Recommendation 2: The Service is part of a technical working group to address this recommendation relating to underneath of bridges/tunnel areas, specifically “Optional high

resolution, motion-activated colour CCTV cameras mounted in conjunction with lighting. These cameras would only record if prompted by activity.” The Technical Working Group recommended developing a broader, more comprehensive camera program. The Waterway and Public Space Monitoring System Working Group was created to scope and design the camera project. A Request for Information was approved by City Council in Nov 2017 and is being sent out to vendors.

Recommendation 4 is being completed by City of Thunder Bay

Recommendation 5 is covered off by the Service under this Inquest Recommendation # 96.

Recommendation 6,7,8 are being completed by City of Thunder Bay

Recommendation 9: Based on the information gleaned from the Floodway Project several individuals have been identified as being involved in repeat incidents and their information has been forwarded by the Service to the Northwest Community Mobilization Network.

Recommendation 10 is being completed by City of Thunder Bay.

Update from June 2018 to June 2019:

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 2018:

Incidents 2018		Average age	36.58
2018-Jan	8	Median age	33
2018-Feb	3	Oldest	73
2018-Mar	13	Youngest	14
2018-Apr	32	# of 22 year olds	9
2018-May	59	# of 21 year olds	3
2018-Jun	48	# of 20 year olds	7
2018-Jul	56	# of 19 year olds	3
2018-Aug	28	# of 18 year olds	1
2018-Sep	27	# under 18 years old	4
2018-Oct	17	Total persons	701
2018-Nov	9	Total males	208
2018-Dec	5	Total females	97
TOTAL	305	Total incidents	305

Update (on Recommendation 2): June 2018-2019

Smart Cities is an initiative proposal, through Infrastructure Canada. 250k was given to 10 different municipalities to move to the next phase. Our program components were very similar to Saskatchewan's project that was funded. We were not selected to move to the next phase; however, with our Smart City Challenge Proposal Submission we will be able to use aspects of the document for future submissions.