



# Report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Public Fatality Inquiry

*Fatality Inquiries Act*

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at the Edmonton Law Courts Building

in the City of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta,  
(City, Town or Village) (Name of City, Town, Village)

on the 15th day of October, 2015, (and by adjournment  
year

on the 14th day of January, 2016, (and by adjournment  
year

on the 10th day of February, 2016, (and by adjournment  
year

on the 7th and 8th day of March, 2016, (and by adjournment  
year

on the 5th day of October, 2016),  
year

before The Honourable L.K. Stevens, a Provincial Court Judge,

into the death of Michael Bronaugh 24  
(Name in Full) (Age)

of Edmonton, Alberta and the following findings were made:  
(Residence)

**Date and Time of Death:** December 12, 2012, at 8:30 a.m.

**Place:** University 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 – *Fatality Inquiries Act*, Section 1(d)).

Multiple gunshot wounds

## Manner of Death:

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

Homicidal

**Circumstances under which Death occurred:**

**I. Introduction**

This is a report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General arising from an Inquiry conducted pursuant to the provisions of the *Fatality Inquiries Act*, RSA 2000 c F-9 (the *Act*) into the death of Michael Bronaugh (Mr. Bronaugh or the Deceased) on December 12, 2012 in Edmonton, Alberta.

The *Act* requires me to report on the identity of the Deceased, the date, place and time of death, the circumstances surrounding the death, the cause of death and the manner of death. I am permitted to make recommendations in relation to the prevention of future similar deaths, but prohibited from making any findings of legal responsibility or coming to any conclusion of law regarding the circumstances leading to the death.

Mr. Bronaugh, then 24 years old, was fatally shot by two Edmonton Police Service officers responding to an armed robbery in progress call at the Canadian Western Bank (bank) at South Edmonton Common on December 11, 2012. Immediate first aid was administered at the scene. He was taken to the University of Alberta Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery and further lifesaving efforts were made. He succumbed to his wounds the following morning, December 12, 2012.

The Fatality Inquiry (Inquiry) took place over six days between October 15, 2015 and October 5, 2016. Some of the proceedings were held *in camera*, for reasons which will be explained below.

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) was granted standing at the Inquiry, as was Mr. Bronaugh's mother. His mother will not be referred to by name in this report at her request. That request was motivated by a desire to prevent publication of information which would tend to identify Mr. Bronaugh's minor child, whom Mr. Bronaugh's mother is now raising. Neither Counsel nor I could see any reason to deny this request as none of the objectives of the Inquiry nor the public interest would be advanced by public disclosure of the mother's name.

**II. The *In Camera* Hearing**

On January 14, 2016, Counsel for EPS brought a pre-inquiry application to have a portion of the Inquiry heard *in camera*. The application was based on the assertion of privilege over EPS policies, codes and general tactics when responding to bank robbery calls. An unredacted copy of that policy was entered and reviewed by me in the course of that application, which was itself heard *in camera*.

After hearing from Sergeant Mark Bloxham (Sgt. Bloxham) of EPS, a 23-year member with significant experience relevant to EPS policies, tactics, and training respecting armed bank robberies, I upheld the privilege. Simply put, the unredacted policy includes specific operational techniques, tactics and communication codes to be used in responding to armed bank robberies such as the one which took place here. As succinctly stated by Sgt. Bloxham in his evidence, the unredacted policy provides a virtual template as to how EPS will respond to bank robberies, which are generally planned criminal enterprises.

It would be detrimental to public and police safety, as well as investigative effectiveness, for this information to be disclosed publicly. It should not be available to people planning such criminal activity.

Having upheld the public interest privilege in respect of EPS armed robbery policy, the usual result would be to render it inadmissible in these proceedings as well as any oral testimony concerning it.

For this Inquiry, however, Counsel for the EPS made an express but limited waiver of the privilege regarding one aspect of that policy provided that it be discussed only *in camera* in these proceedings. This was a challenging evidential situation to manage, but in light of my factual conclusions in this matter, I do not find it necessary to refer specifically to the contents of the armed robbery policy in this report, and therefore to seal any portion of it.

In my review, it was clear that the EPS policy was soundly based and that training based on that policy is being conducted on an ongoing basis. I have no recommendations in relation to its review or amendment for the prevention of similar deaths in future, but have considered that issue. The armed robbery that led to the police response in this case was an outlier, and unlike the vast majority of robberies of financial institutions.

My ruling on privilege made on February 10, 2016, as well as the Edmonton Police Service Policy and Procedure Manual Pertaining to Armed Robberies, and the record of the *in camera* proceedings, were previously ordered sealed. They will of course be attached to the record of this Inquiry should there be further review of my ruling or findings or should there otherwise be an application to unseal.

### **III. The Events Leading to the Death**

#### **a. Overview of the Evidence**

I heard oral testimony from five people who were present for all or a portion of the events on December 11, 2012.

Two were bank employees working at the Canadian Western bank (bank) that day, Colleen Bradley (Ms. Bradley) and Julie Sturgeon (Ms. Sturgeon). Paul Thomas (Mr. Thomas) was one of the customers in the bank at the time and in close proximity to the final events.

Also called were the two EPS officers who first responded and fired the shots which caused the wounds to the Deceased, Constable Steven Zielie (Cst. Zielie) and Constable Dave McCracken (Cst. McCracken).

In addition, and made written Exhibits in the Inquiry, were numerous written records including other witness statements, statements by other police officers, the Medical Examiner's Report and records, the University of Alberta Hospital records, records made in the course of subsequent investigations by EPS and by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT). Also included were records made from the video surveillance in the bank and audio-recorded police communications.

The documents and records reviewed in the course of this Inquiry were voluminous but in the end, this incident, unlike many serious and violent events, is remarkably clear and without significant factual conflicts.

**b. Civilian Evidence**

On December 11, 2012, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Mr. Bronaugh attended the Canadian Western Bank at South Edmonton Common holding himself out to be 'Darren Spence.' Using that name, Mr. Bronaugh had earlier made a morning appointment by telephone call with the bank staff ostensibly to discuss opening a bank account. He did not make the morning appointment, but made a second call re-scheduling the meeting for the afternoon.

Mr. Bronaugh arrived at the bank by taxi, and told the taxi driver to wait for him outside as he would only be a few minutes and wished to then be taken to a grocery store. Mr. Bronaugh presented as well-dressed and groomed, wearing a black coat, and slightly nervous. He was taken to a desk where account discussions between customers and bank employees take place, seated, and was seen to wait quietly there for several minutes.

Ms. Bradley was the employee assigned to meet with the person whom she understood was 'Darren Spence', and she sat down with Mr. Bronaugh to discuss what she thought was the opening of an account. Instead, Mr. Bronaugh suddenly demanded \$9,900 cash all in \$100 bills. When Ms. Bradley explained that they did not have that amount of cash up front, Mr. Bronaugh reached his hand into his coat and told her that she had twenty-eight seconds to produce the money, that he had a gun and would start shooting someone.

Ms. Bradley tried to ignore the threat, and asked if he still wanted to open the bank account. Mr. Bronaugh's response was to tell her that she now had twenty seconds to produce the money.

Ms. Bradley told Mr. Bronaugh that it would take a few minutes to get that kind of money and she asked her co-worker, Cassandra Kozens (Ms. Kozens), to come back with her to the bank's vault to get the money. At that time, two employees were required to open the vault, the only place in the bank where that amount of cash could have been obtained.

Ms. Bradley and Ms. Kozens, very understandably, were terrified. They phoned two of their supervisors, Pat Neitsch (Ms. Neitsch) and Julie Sturgeon (Ms. Sturgeon) to get some direction. Ms. Sturgeon went to the vault room in which Ms. Bradley and Ms. Kozens were waiting behind a locked door. They let her in, and after confirming what had been demanded, Ms. Sturgeon, very bravely, went to the senior manager's office – leaving the vault room and walking through the bank. As she did so, she walked by Mr. Bronaugh who was still standing in the bank's customer area. In Ms. Sturgeon's words, Mr. Bronaugh 'grinned' at her as she walked by him.

After Ms. Sturgeon informed the senior manager, Cory Stark (Mr. Stark), of the situation, Mr. Stark told Ms. Sturgeon to call 911 immediately, which she did. She reported the demand for \$9,900, the threat regarding having a gun and the threat to start shooting if they did not give him the money. Ms. Sturgeon was told by police in the 911 call to give the man the money, which she passed on to Mr. Stark.

Mr. Stark went to the vault area and waited in the locked vault room with Ms. Kozens and Ms. Bradley and another employee, hoping that Mr. Bronaugh would leave. They did not come out until after they heard the shouting and gunshots, and an EPS member confirmed that it was safe for them to come out.

While still on the line with the 911 dispatcher, Ms. Sturgeon was asked to describe what she saw out in front of the bank at that time. She described seeing that the taxi in which Mr. Bronaugh had arrived at the bank was still parked out front, as well as police vehicles. Ms. Sturgeon saw police go to the taxi driver who immediately got out of his vehicle and ran away. Ms. Sturgeon then saw Mr. Bronaugh walking toward the bank entrance, and two police officers come into the bank with their guns drawn. The police were yelling for everyone to get down and for Mr. Bronaugh to stop, not to shoot, and to drop his gun. Next, she heard the gunshots, perhaps five seconds later, following which she saw Mr. Bronaugh on the floor being administered first aid by the police officers.

Ms. Sturgeon testified that the circumstances presented by Mr. Bronaugh in this incident were very different from what she had been trained to believe were usually present in bank robberies:

- (i) the robber had actually made an appointment to meet with bank staff in advance;
- (ii) he had sat in the bank apparently waiting quietly for his appointment for approximately five minutes prior to the requested meeting; and
- (iii) the extended length of time he stayed in the bank after demanding the money and making the threat about the gun and shooting people.

Ms. Sturgeon estimated that Mr. Bronaugh was in the bank for about twenty minutes in total prior to the police entry, and that was completely inconsistent with what she was trained would occur in a typical bank robbery. She understood that a bank robber would be interested in getting in and out of the bank as quickly as possible with whatever money could be quickly produced by the bank staff.

None of the bank employees saw Mr. Bronaugh's firearm until after police entered.

The only customer who was in the bank called to give evidence was Paul Thomas. When Mr. Thomas went into the bank that afternoon to withdraw some money, he saw only one bank employee working at the front and a man standing in the bank in a black coat. While he was waiting for his request for funds to be fulfilled, Mr. Thomas saw two police vehicles arrive in the parking lot outside without their lights or emergency equipment activated. He saw one of the police officers get out of his police vehicle, and then the man in the black coat, Mr. Bronaugh, turned and began walking.

Mr. Thomas saw that Mr. Bronaugh was holding a revolver, and it was only then that he realized that there was a robbery in progress. Mr. Thomas was struck by how calm Mr. Bronaugh appeared to be. Two police officers then entered the bank with their firearms drawn, one a pistol and the other a rifle. He heard police shout commands to drop the weapon and saw Mr. Bronaugh start walking towards the police with no apparent fear. He heard gunshots, and observed police officers immediately thereafter administering first aid to Mr. Bronaugh. Mr. Thomas believed his hearing in his left ear was negatively affected as a result of his proximity to the firing of the firearms in this incident.

Mr. Thomas described this incident as one of the most frightening events he had ever experienced. He also expressed sincere condolences for the loss suffered by Mr. Bronaugh's family members in the course of his testimony, and his praise for the police officers who immediately began providing first aid to Mr. Bronaugh.

**c. The Police Officers**

Constable McCracken (Cst. McCracken), an EPS member since 2008, was on a separate call when he received the 'Priority One Call' of a bank robbery in progress at South Edmonton Common. He responded by driving immediately to the location provided, using his police vehicle emergency equipment only to clear intersections along his route but not in proximity of the bank.

While responding, he received further information including a description of the suspect, the fact that the suspect was still inside the bank, that the suspect had a taxi waiting for him outside and that he was demanding \$9,900 or he was going to shoot people inside the bank.

Cst. McCracken found the fact that the suspect was reported to still be inside the bank to be very unusual in his experience in responding to bank robbery dispatches.

He heard A/Sgt. Zielie report that he had arrived at the front of the bank. Cst. McCracken estimated that he arrived and parked at the rear of the bank approximately five minutes after receiving the call. Since the report indicated the suspect had a gun, Cst. McCracken took his carbine rifle (rifle) out of its locked rack and put an additional round into the chamber.

With his rifle in hand, Cst. McCracken exited his police vehicle and went to the front of the bank where he saw A/Sgt. Zielie at the southeast corner. He understood that the suspect was still in the bank and demanding a specific amount of money, and that bank employees were asking police whether or not to give him the money. Cst. McCracken estimated that he had responded to between twenty to thirty armed robbery complaints while with EPS, and that this was the only one in which the suspect was still on the scene when he arrived. That fact, along with the request for the specific amount of money, struck Cst. McCracken as very unusual.

Cst. McCracken took cover behind the taxi, and saw A/Sgt. Zielie interact with the taxi driver resulting in the driver leaving the taxi and running southbound. A/Sgt. Zielie told Cst. McCracken that he believed they had to go in, and he agreed. He could not see into the bank through the windows, he thought because of glare on the windows.

Cst. McCracken and A/Sgt. Zielie went in through the two sets of entrance doors, Cst. McCracken on the left and A/Sgt. Zielie on the right. Cst. McCracken's first impression on entering into the bank was that there were a lot of people present, no obvious suspect, and relative calm. He yelled at a bank teller, "Where is he?", then saw Mr. Bronaugh in the middle of the bank near an older man and a bank teller. He saw Mr. Bronaugh produce a silver revolver from somewhere near his midsection with his right hand. Mr. Bronaugh was walking towards him and looking directly at him. Cst. McCracken yelled at him to drop the gun and to get on the ground, but Mr. Bronaugh turned to his left and started to raise his gun toward the older gentleman and the bank employees.

Cst. McCracken believed that Mr. Bronaugh was about to open fire on the civilians in the bank, and based on that, made the decision to fire his rifle. This all happened very quickly. Cst. McCracken believed at the time that he fired two or three rounds, and he was unaware at the time as to whether A/Sgt. Zielie had fired his gun. As Mr. Bronaugh fell to the floor he still had his revolver in his hand, which was removed from him by A/Sgt. Zielie. A third police officer, Cst. Dodman, whom Cst. McCracken knew had been a paramedic arrived very quickly thereafter and provided first aid. Other police officers arrived quickly thereafter, and Cst. McCracken removed himself from the immediate scene because he had used his firearm, and knew that he would be the subject of investigation.

Cst. Steven Zielie, an Acting Sergeant on the day of this incident, has been an EPS member since 1996. He was alone in his marked police vehicle when he received the call about the robbery in progress at the Canadian Western Bank. The information he received was that the suspect was still in the bank, that he had said he was going to start shooting people, that a gun had not yet been seen, and that the bank staff were asking what they should do. Police had told the bank employee to give the suspect the money and let him go.

A/Sgt. Zielie used his police vehicle's emergency equipment to get to the location, but turned it off once in the area. He estimated his arrival at the bank to be about five minutes after receiving the dispatch call.

A/Sgt. Zielie's belief from what he heard over the radio was that other police officers had arrived on scene before him, and his intention was to act in a supervisory role as Acting Sergeant. He therefore, approached the bank in his police vehicle from a direction in which it could have been seen from inside the bank, something he would not have done had he known that he was the first police officer to arrive.

As A/Sgt. Zielie neared the bank he realized there were no other police vehicles or police officers there before him so he stopped and parked immediately, about 200 metres from the bank. He tried to look into the bank through its windows, but was not able to see into the bank due to glare or tint. He realized he had exposed himself to being seen from inside the bank, and he was immediately concerned about the taxi parked in front of the bank. He had heard the report that the suspect had arrived in a taxi and that the taxi was still waiting for him.

As Cst. McCracken came running around from behind the bank and took cover behind the taxi, A/Sgt. Zielie told the taxi driver to leave immediately. After being stopped from driving away, the taxi driver exited the taxi and ran south.

A/Sgt. Zielie had a brief discussion with Cst. McCracken and told him that he believed they needed to go into the bank. A/Sgt. Zielie came to that decision because of the report that the suspect had said he was going to start shooting people and, because A/Sgt. Zielie had exposed police presence to those in the bank, the suspect would know police were outside the bank. He believed that this had put the people inside the bank in immediate life-threatening danger. He and Cst. McCracken quickly agreed on how they would get through the doors together in the safest and most effective tactical manner. Both had their firearms at the low ready position upon entry, Cst. McCracken with his rifle and A/Sgt. Zielie with his Glock 40 caliber pistol.

Upon entry into the bank, A/Sgt. Zielie's immediate impression was that there were a lot of people present in the bank. His attention was drawn to the older man in the dark jacket at the teller desk, but because of his age he did not believe that man (Mr. Thomas) was the suspect. He then saw motion to his left, looked and saw Mr. Bronaugh. Mr. Bronaugh was walking away from the older man and parallel to the police. As Mr. Bronaugh did so, A/Sgt. Zielie saw him bring his gun out.

When A/Sgt. Zielie saw the gun, he immediately started yelling for Mr. Bronaugh to drop the gun. Mr. Bronaugh's only reaction was to continue to bring the gun up and appear to point it at Mr. Bronaugh's own head. As he did so Mr. Bronaugh was turning away to his right and putting his back to the police officers. Mr. Bronaugh ignored several more shouts to drop the gun, did not shoot himself, but was then in a position facing a lot of people. A/Sgt. Zielie believed that he was about to start shooting others, and so he shot at Mr. Bronaugh to prevent him from doing so. A/Sgt. Zielie believed that he fired three to four shots.

A/Sgt. Zielie and Cst. McCracken immediately approached Mr. Bronaugh on the floor, A/Sgt. Zielie pushed Mr. Bronaugh's silver revolver away and he was handcuffed. A/Sgt. Zielie immediately began applying medical trauma packs to Mr. Bronaugh's wounds. Mr. Bronaugh was making sounds. A few seconds later, another police officer arrived with more extensive medical training, Cst. Dodman, and he took over the provision of first aid for Mr. Bronaugh.

Cst. Zielie believed he had responded to at least twenty bank robbery calls in his career to that date. This was unlike any of the others to which he had responded, specifically because the robber had remained in the bank for a significant period of time and the bank had not given him money. In his experience, bank robbers invariably fled the scene as quickly as they could, with or without obtaining money. Cst. Zielie had never responded to a bank robbery call in which the suspect was still in the bank.

Cst. Zielie's belief, based on his experience and training was that this robber's primary motivation was not the obtaining of money, as he was showing no desire to flee. Instead, he believed that something harmful was intended, whether that be the shooting of civilians or forcing the police to shoot him.

In an extraordinary moment in this Inquiry, Mr. Bronaugh's mother offered some comfort to Cst. Zielie, and Cst. Zielie told her and the Inquiry that this event had affected him every day since it had happened. Cst. Zielie had clearly contemplated these events in hindsight many times, and told the Inquiry that without his mistaken understanding that other police officers were already at the bank and that the suspect would not be there when he first pulled up, he would not have parked within sight of the front of the bank. By doing so, he believed that he had increased the danger to the people within the bank, decreased any tactical advantage the police had in responding, and that therefore his primary duty to protect the safety and lives of other people required that he and Cst. McCracken enter the bank immediately.

**d. The Reconstructed Timeline**

It is often very difficult for people involved in dynamic and stressful events to give accurate time estimates or timelines. In this case, however, the calls to and between police were recorded, and I am satisfied that the evidence before me of the reconstruction done based on those records is reliable and accurate.

The most significant recorded times are as follows:

1. 13:34 – Mr. Bronaugh entered the bank.
2. 13:35 – Mr. Bronaugh was seated in waiting area.
3. 13:43 – Mr. Bronaugh begins conversation with Ms. Bradley.
4. 13:44 – Mr. Bronaugh is seen partially un-buttoning his coat and putting his hand into it.
5. 13:52.01 – the 911 call was received, Ms. Sturgeon's initial description of the situation was recorded, and the dispatch call went out shortly thereafter.
6. Between 13:53 and 13:56 – communications were received indicating the suspect was still in the bank.
7. 13:57.09 – A/Sgt. Zielie arrived on scene, close to the five minutes he estimated after receiving the call.

8. 13:58:42 – the dispatcher responded to the bank employee's query as to whether to give the suspect the money, and they were told to do so.
9. 13:59:26 – Cst. Dodman arrived on scene.
10. 14:00:12 – shots were fired, and it was reported there was a man down.
11. 14:01:13 – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were on route, arriving at 14:11:55.
12. 14:23:01 – EMS was on route to the University of Alberta Hospital with Mr. Bronaugh and Cst. Dodman.

**e. Relevant Forensic Evidence Obtained Following the Events**

Cst. McCracken fired four shots from his rifle, Cst. Zielie fired two from his pistol. All six shots caused wounds to Mr. Bronaugh, therefore all shots fired by the police officers hit the intended target. No one else present was injured.

Mr. Bronaugh's revolver was found to have been fully loaded with six live rounds while he was in the bank. The revolver's hammer was in the half-cocked position when recovered from the floor by police following the shooting. It was determined to be a functional 22 calibre revolver, with an effaced serial number.

Post-mortem toxicology testing showed that neither alcohol nor non-treatment drugs were present in Mr. Bronaugh's body at the time of death.

**f. Michael Bronaugh**

I did not hear a great deal of evidence about Mr. Bronaugh, but it was very apparent from the involvement of his mother, other family members, and the various statements obtained that he was a much-loved son, father and friend. He played an important role in his young daughter's life.

He was a young man with some criminal history, and seemed to be struggling over his inability to get steady employment.

The hospital records indicate that he did not have a significant medical or mental health history, although he had expressed concerns to family about having cancer and seizures proximate to these events. He had taken steps to give family members their Christmas presents early, prior to the events culminating in his death.

Mr. Bronaugh's loved ones have struggled and likely will continue to struggle with questions over why he did what he did on December 11, 2012. Collectively, their conduct with the investigations after and this Inquiry itself could be characterized as grief-stricken but respectful towards the others affected by Mr. Bronaugh's final actions.

**g. Expert Evidence Regarding the Use of Force**

The final witness called to give oral evidence was Inspector Christopher Butler (Insp. Butler) of the Calgary Police Service. Insp. Butler has over 25 years' experience as a Calgary police member. His *curriculum vitae* detailed his extensive experience and training as both an active patrol police officer as well as a full-time training officer, command instructor, and as the Calgary Police Service's Use of Force Review Officer. Insp. Butler has had the responsibility to review, report on, and provide opinion on numerous events where police officers have used force. Insp. Butler has been previously qualified to give opinion evidence respecting the police use of force in criminal trials, inquiries and other legal proceedings many times.

He was qualified in this Inquiry as an expert able to give opinion evidence respecting the police use of force, and in the use of force training for the purpose of this Inquiry. Insp. Butler also offered opinion evidence about whether the police officers' conduct in this case was consistent with what similarly trained and experienced officers would have done under like circumstances.

Insp. Butler's testimony was admitted into this Inquiry on the basis that it might help to inform as to whether any recommendations might be made to prevent similar deaths in the future. However, it presented several challenges. First, the evidence was likely to, and did, contain numerous comments about police policy, tactics and training regarding bank robberies, respecting which there was a privilege. For this reason, Insp. Butler's evidence was heard *in camera*. Second, while this evidence was admitted for the limited purpose of determining whether recommendations might be appropriate, care must be taken to ensure that this type of evidence is not misapplied in the context of a Fatality Inquiry. A Fatality Inquiry is not an inquiry into fault; it is an inquiry into facts.

I have approached Insp. Butler's testimony by first looking at whether the testimony, combined with the rest of the evidence would help to inform any recommendations, and second, to determine whether any recommendations that might be appropriate could be made without compromising the privilege that I found.

After reviewing all of the evidence, I find it unnecessary to decide the second issue. One of the most salient pieces of Insp. Butler's testimony and which is not subject to privilege, is his observation that several features of this bank robbery were very unusual, an observation that only reinforced the testimony of other witnesses. Insp. Butler used the descriptor "bizarre." Those features included the exceptionally long time the robber had been in the bank prior to the police entry, that he had not been given any money by bank employees, and that he did not seem to want to get away.

After the police entry, Mr. Bronaugh's presentation of the gun, his refusal to comply with police commands and warnings, and the immediate threat he posed to everyone present left the police with no choice.

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

In light of this, I can make no recommendations.

DATED November 18, 2019,

at Edmonton, Alberta.

*Original signed by*

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The Honourable L.K. Stevens  
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta