

Val-d'Or, June 11, 2018

To : Mr. Jean-Guy Lalonde
Kativik Regional Police Force

c.c. : Mr. Jean-Pierre Larose, Kativik Regional Police Force
Mrs. Johanne Fortin, Kativik Regional Police Force

From : Paul Crépeau, Council

Subject : Request for information within the scope of the work conducted by the *Public Inquiry Commission on Relations between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress*

File N° : DG-0209-AB

Mr. Lalonde:

Within the scope of its work, the Public Inquiry Commission on Relations between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress (Public Inquiry Commission) solicits the cooperation of the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPF) to obtain **information on the follow-up conducted after the death of Aboriginal individuals under its custody.**

For each one of the Coroner's report listed on pages 2 and 3, we ask the KRPF to clarify specific particulars and send us any information that may be instrumental in assessing the follow-up measures that the KRPF has initiated to remedy a situation that has led to the death of individuals under its custody, including:

- a) Follow-up actions and measures undertaken by the KRPF in response to the Coroner's recommendations directed at the KRPF;
- b) The initiatives introduced by the KRPF to identify and supervise individuals presenting suicidal ideation and held in detention in a police station;
- c) Changes and improvements to existing facilities; and acquisition of adequate material (surveillance cameras, anti-suicide blankets, etc.);
- d) Adoption or modifications of internal policies, protocols, guides of good practices and any other literature useful to staff members when young offenders with possible suicidal ideations are held in custody; training of staff members delivering services to those young offenders on the aforementioned directives;
- e) Conduct of work sessions to provide support to staff members, look back on past events, and allow staff members to express themselves.

1. Coroner Report #127673 (2005)

A man from Salluit committed suicide by hanging in a cell of the Salluit police station. In preparation for his appearance before the court, the security guard of his community gave him the clothes his family had sent for him; the belt this man used to commit suicide was among the clothing items.

2. Coroner Report #137277 (2007)

A man from Kuujjuaq committed suicide by hanging while under custody at the Kuujjuaq police station. According to the explanation of the circumstances, the guard on duty noticed that the surveillance camera was obstructed and saw that the door window was obstructed from inside the cell: 'The guard alerted a police officer, who proceeded to the premises and concluded, at 9:20 p.m., that Mr. X was found with a link tied around his neck and his feet touching the floor'. Twenty (20) minutes elapsed between the time the alert was sent by the guard and the police officer's response.

The Commission is particularly interested to read any information that can:

- a) Explain why the guard on duty did not check the cell by himself;
- b) Indicate what procedure is to be followed when it is suddenly impossible to have visual access to an incarcerated individual under one's responsibility;
- c) Explain why the guard called for assistance if in nowhere in the report it is mentioned that Mr. X was particularly uncooperative or aggressive.

3. Coroner Report #140038 (2009)

A man from Kuujjuarapik, while locked up in a cell at the Kuujjuarapik police station, attempted to commit suicide by hanging with a wool blanket. He was sent by ambulance airplane to Montreal, where he died as a result of his act. Thirty (30) minutes elapsed between the time the police officers on duty made their last round and Mr. X's suicidal attempt. No mention of a camera, the number of officers assigned to surveillance or the procedures in force at this police station.

4. Coroner Report #158182 (2012)

A man from Puvirnituk was kept under custody at the Puvirnituk police station. One half-hour after he was taken to a cell, the man was found with a sheet tied around his neck; all attempts to bring him back were in vain.

We also ask you to provide us with any information or documents supporting the information that you will send us in response to this request, even if they are not included in the aforementioned list, to help the Public Inquiry Commission fulfill its mandate, which reads as follows:

Taking into consideration the issues mentioned in the preamble of decree 1095-2016, to investigate, address facts and conduct analyses in order to make recommendations concerning concrete, effective, lasting remedial measures to be implemented by the Government of Québec and Indigenous officials to prevent or eliminate, regardless of their origin or cause, all forms of violence, discriminatory practices and differential treatment in the delivery of the following public services to Québec's Indigenous people: police, correctional, legal, health and social services, as well as youth protection services.

Firstly, we ask you to notify us within **five (5) days** if you are unable to respond to this request (e.g.: the information is not available or is nonexistent), and explain the reasons for this in an email message to (arianne.martel@cerp.gouv.qc.ca).

Secondly, we ask you to respond to this letter by communicating the requested information and documents **within the next thirty (30) days**.

You may send the information and documents by email to Mrs. Nicole Durocher (nicole.durocher@cerp.gouv.qc.ca). If the documents are tagged as confidential, we suggest making our Secure Document Sharing (SDS) platform available to you. If you find this solution convenient, please confirm by email nicole.durocher@cerp.gouv.qc.ca so that we can send you the procedure for using our SDS platform. If you prefer to send the information in an envelope, please have it delivered by **courier service** to the following address:

Mrs. Nicole Durocher
*Public Inquiry Commission on Relations between
Indigenous Peoples and certain Public Services in Québec*
600, avenue Centrale
Val-d'Or (Quebec) J9P 1P8

If one or more of the requested documents cannot be communicated to us for whatever reason, please notify us in writing and state the reasons. For any questions concerning this letter of request, please contact Mrs. Arianne Martel by email (arianne.martel@cerp.gouv.qc.ca).

We thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

M^e Paul Crépeau

Procureur / Counsel

Public Inquiry Commission on Relations between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress

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they are applied in a standardized manner. It clearly indicates as well the procedure for the exchange of clothing, as well as what clothing the detainees are allowed, for their safety.

- The KRPF also has created a guard's log, in which all rounds, with their times are inscribed, every shift. As well, it allows the guard to inscribe comments on the detainee's behavior, actions or words spoken.

- The KRPF has also created the "KRPF Manual of Operational Procedures", in which the police officers' duties are clearly written. It contains a section relating only to dealing with people with suicidal intentions. It also has a section relating to the incarceration of detainees.

e) Conduct of work sessions to provide support to staff members, look back on past events, and allow staff members to express themselves.

- Although there have not been work sessions organized per say, detention of detainees is a topic regularly addressed in team meetings, conducted by supervisors.

2. Coroner Report #137277 (2007)

A man from Kuujjuaq committed suicide by hanging while under custody at the Kuujjuaq police station. According to the explanation of the circumstances, the guard on duty noticed that the surveillance camera was obstructed and saw that the door window was obstructed from inside the cell: 'The guard alerted a police officer, who proceeded to the premises and concluded, at 9:20 p.m., that Mr. X was found with a link tied around his neck and his feet touching the floor'. Twenty (20) minutes elapsed between the time the alert was sent by the guard and the police officer's response. The Commission is particularly interested to read any information that can:

a) Explain why the guard on duty did not check the cell by himself;

b) Indicate what procedure is to be followed when it is suddenly impossible to have visual access to an incarcerated individual under one's responsibility;

c) Explain why the guard called for assistance if in nowhere in the report it is mentioned that Mr. X was particularly uncooperative or aggressive.

The reason the guard did not check the cell herself is because she is not allowed to do so. Following the guard procedure, a civilian guard can't open the cell's door without a police officer with him. Therefore, the guard could not open the cell to clean the window nor to check on the detainee, she had to wait for the police officer to come back. If the guard thought that the detainee's life was or could be in danger, she should've called the emergency line of the police station to let the constable know. However, in that situation, the guard only needed the police to take the toilet papers off the cell's window for her to be able to check on the detainee. There was no reason for her at that point to believe that the detainee's safety was compromised. That guard procedure also explains why the guard asked for police assistance to clean the window instead of doing it herself. It is to be noted that this file was investigated by the Sureté du Québec and that we only have access to the occurrence report done by the KRPF's constable that night.

a) Follow-up actions and measures undertaken by the KRPF in response to the coroner's recommendations directed at the KRPF.

-It is unknown if the coroner made any recommendations in this case, or if they were implemented.

b) The initiatives introduced by the KRPF to identify and supervise individuals presenting suicidal ideations and held in detention in a police station.

- It is now a KRPF directive to have all detainees under surveillance, and to have a regular visual observation of the detainee, in intervals of a maximum of 15 minutes. When a detainee is recognized as being suicidal, either by his words or actions, the intervals are to be much closer, with almost constant surveillance. As well, when a detainee has had suicidal words or actions, the person is systematically evaluated by a Social Worker, once sober.

c) Changes and improvements to existing facilities; and acquisition of adequate material (Surveillance cameras, anti-suicide blankets, etc.)

- All the cells of the Kuujuaq police station were already equipped (and still are) with video cameras and a viewing screen is available in the guard's room. Some material has been acquired to better deal with suicidal persons in the cells. Several suicide-proof gown as well as suicide proof blankets and mattresses, identical to those found in hospitals, are available at the police station.

d) Adoption or modifications of internal policies, protocols, guides of good practices and any other literature useful to staff members when young offenders with possible suicidal ideations are held in custody; training of staff members delivering services to those young offenders on the aforementioned directives.

- The KRPF has created a "Guards Duty book", in which all procedures are clearly written, and which is presented to all new guards when they start working at the police station. It details all the rules, and also what the detainees are allowed or not allowed. The duty book is also readily accessible to all, and placed in plain sight in the office. The police officers are also asked to familiarize themselves with these procedures, to make they are applied in a standardized manner. It clearly indicates as well the procedure for the exchange of clothing, as well as what clothing the detainees are allowed, for their safety.

- The KRPF also has created a guard's log, in which all rounds, with their times are inscribed, every shift. As well, it allows the guard to inscribe comments on the detainee's behavior, actions or words spoken.

- The KRPF has also created the "KRPF Manual of Operational Procedures", in which the police officers' duties are clearly written. It contains a section relating only to dealing with people with suicidal intentions. It also has a section relating to the incarceration of detainees.

e) Conduct of work sessions to provide support to staff members, look back on past events, and allow staff members to express themselves.

- Although there have not been work sessions organized per say, detention of detainees is a topic regularly addressed in team meetings, conducted by supervisors.

3. Coroner Report #140038 (2009)

A man from Kuujjuarapik, while locked up in a cell at the Kuujjuarapik police station, attempted to commit suicide by hanging with a wool blanket. He was sent by ambulance airplane to Montreal, where he died as a result of his act. Thirty (30) minutes elapsed between the time the police officers on duty made their last round and Mr. X's suicidal attempt. No mention of a camera, the number of officers assigned to surveillance or the procedures in force at this police station.

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c) Changes and improvements to existing facilities; and acquisition of adequate material (Surveillance cameras, anti-suicide blankets, etc.)

- All the cells of the Kuujjuaraapik police station are now equipped with video cameras and a viewing screen is available in the guard's room, and also in the constable's area on all the computers. Some material has been acquired to better deal with suicidal persons in the cells. Several suicide-proof gown as well as suicide proof blankets and mattresses, identical to those found in hospitals, are available at the police station.

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K.R.P.F.



INSTRUCTIONS

FOR GUARDS AT THE

PUVIRNITUQ

POLICE

STATION

LAST UPDATE:2014-03-04



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

- Door traps must be closed at all time when detainees are intoxicated. Never open the door traps without the police officer's permission. You can open the trap to give something to an intoxicated detainee, but the trap must be closed right after.
- After you gave one cup to a detainee, there is no reason to open the trap again, they have a sink and they can take water on their own.
- Detainees are never allowed to receive visitors for safety reasons. DYP or social services might need to meet with a detainee, but it has to be arranged with a police officer first, and a police officer has to be present for the visit.
- Guards have to make sure that the back door is always closed and locked properly. Guards have to check each time that they open it. The doors at the police station don't close properly sometimes.
- Detainees are never allowed to make phone calls unless they already appeared by phone. *You are never authorized to make phone calls for the detainee or to give messages for the detainee or to detainee's family, friends, husband, wife boyfriend or girlfriend.*



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

- If a detainee receives a phone call, take the message and give it to the police officer. **NOT TO THE DETAINEE.**
- If the detainee's lawyer is calling, please take in note the hour this one called and the hour that the phone call finished in your daily journal.
- Detainees who already appeared are the only detainees who are allowed to use the phone. After 23h00 no phone calls allowed.
- Before giving personal effects to a detainee brought by a visitor, or after being requested by the detainee, the personal effects have to be inspected by the police officer first.
- No lighters, matches or any flammable stuff are allowed to detainees.
- No sharp equipment is allowed to detainees. Only plastic knives for meal are allowed and those have to be returned to the guard after the meal.



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

- The breakfast time is after 08h00 in the morning. The lunch time is between 11h00 and 13h00 and the supper time is between 17h00 and 18h30.
- Don't call us in the middle of the night to ask us to release a detainee who sobered up, to tell us that a detainee wants to go out, or for anything else. Call us only if the detainee's life is in danger or if you are in danger. **CALL US FOR IMPORTANT THINGS ONLY!**
- On weekends, it could happen that there is extra food in the fridge, this is in case of extra detainees on Sunday because the store is not opened. **This food is not for the actual detainees and not for guards.**
The food is counted.
- You can give coffee to detainees, but use only one paper cup per detainee. If a detainee breaks the cup, don't give another one, it will be too bad for him, it costs lots of money to buy those cups.
- You can not give coffee to a detainee after midnight. It will keep them awake and noisy. They can drink water at that time.



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

- If they are aggressive, If they have no respect for you, for other detainees or to police officers, don't give them coffee. Coffee can be given to detainees who are sober, calm and respectful and only with their meal
- If a detainee is agitated, drunk or aggressive do not give them plastic cup or paper cup. Wait until they calm down.
- If a detainee is trying to commit suicide or is mutilating himself, never open the door without a police officer. **If the police officer is not at the office call him right away 988-9111.**
- If 2 or more detainees are fighting inside a cell, don't open the door. **If the police officer is not at the office call him right away 988-9111**
- If a detainee is sick and requests medical assistance while he is detained, don't open the door, **If the police officer is not at the office call him right away 988-9111**
- You have to write on your guard's report the behavior of the detainee, (insulting you, making threats, shouting, banging door, sleeping, fighting the police officers, phone calls to the lawyer or other phone calls if allowed. **Everything has to be written down.**



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

- Don't wait until the last 15 minutes to call for an other guard. You should be sure at the beginning of your shift that there is an other guard on the schedule if required.
- We have confidential information, evidence that has to be preserved in the office room. Guards are not authorized in the office room unless there is a police officer in the office. ***If you don't respect that point, the door between the office and the detention will be locked at night so you will have to go to toilet on the detention side.***
- Guards have to check each detainee at different laps of time and write it in your report. You should check the detainees every 15 minutes through the window of the cell, and not only on the cameras.
- Detainees who are suicidal are allowed to have the blue blankets only. ***(DO NOT GIVE THE GREY BLANKET OR CLOTHES TO THEM; THEY COULD HANG THEMSELVES WITH IT!)***
- Guards are allowed to watch T.V. Listen music, read magazines etc. But you have to keep doing the check up on the detainees



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

- Detainees must respect you, if they are not respecting you when they ask you food or anything else, wait before giving it to them and tell the officer. Also put it in your report.

- If there are no guards available and you know someone who can guard, tell the police officer before calling that person. We have to check his background first.

- If you don't know if you are allowed to do something, don't take action by yourself, call the police officer and he will tell you what to do.

- It's your duty, and you have to clean up the guard's working area at the end of your shift for the next guard who will have to work. That means to clean up the working table and counter.

- It's your duty to give a briefing to the guard who will replace you and to tell them which one of the detainee has the right to receive visitors or to receive phone calls.

- Check often that book, this is a good reminder for you and sometimes the commands are updated.



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

- If a detainee is released he has to clean his cell first, we are not their janitor and it's not an hotel. If they refuse to clean up, they stay detained.
- *All guard related reports must be kept at the police station, they may contain some confidential information and the reports should not leave the station under no circumstances.*
- NEVER LEAVE A DETAINEE ALONE IN THE POLICE STATION. YOU CAN NOT LEAVE UNTIL THERE IS A POLICE OFFICER OR AN OTHER GUARD AT THE POLICE STATION. IF YOU LET A DETAINEE ALONE IN THE POLICE STATION AND THE DETAINEE COMMITS SUICIDE WHILE YOU ARE OUT, YOU COULD BE CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.



K.R.P.F. DETENTION

By signing the following, I confirm that I have been reading the rules that I have to respect at the police station and that I know my duties. From now, I know what I am allowed to do and what I am not allowed to do. Also by signing the following, I engage myself to follow all of those rules while I am guarding at the Puvirnituk Police station

***** PLEASE WRITE THE DATE BESIDE YOUR SIGNATURE*****

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 2 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 3 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 4 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 5 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 6 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 7 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 8 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 9 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 10 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 11 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
| 12 Name: _____ | Signature: _____ |
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