

**Yukon
Coroner's
Service**

News Release

Yukon Coroner's Service investigating four deaths

January 6, 2025 – The Yukon Coroner's Service is investigating four deaths that occurred between December 18 and December 30, 2024.

On December 18, the death of a 56-year-old male at 405 Alexander was reported. An autopsy was held in Abbotsford on December 20 and preliminary findings indicate that toxic illicit substances were a factor.

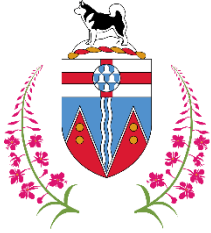
On December 23, the death of a 37-year-old male inmate at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre was reported. Our investigation has confirmed that this individual's death was the result of suicide. A Coroner's Inquest will be called in the coming months as required under the Coroners Act for all deaths that occur while a person is in custody at a correctional centre.

On December 27, Watson Lake RCMP notified the Yukon Coroner's Service of a single vehicle accident at KM 1085 of the Alaska Highway. The 27-year-old female driver, who was the lone occupant of the 1998 Toyota Forerunner, was deceased at the scene. Findings indicate that the vehicle's front right tire caught the snow on the shoulder of the highway and the vehicle was drawn into the ditch. The vehicle rolled before coming to a stop on its roof. Alcohol does not appear to have been a factor. The road and driving conditions on this day were trying, with challenging visibility due to falling snow. We can also confirm that the vehicle was being driven well below the speed limit at the time of the incident. The driver had been travelling from Anchorage, Alaska and was relocating to Washington state.

On December 30, the death of a 21-year-old female was reported at 405 Alexander. It was reported that this individual was visiting a resident of 405 Alexander at the time of her death. An autopsy is scheduled to be held in Abbotsford. Preliminary findings suggest that toxic illicit drugs are suspected to have contributed to this death.

In addition, the Yukon Coroner's Service is supporting the Yukon RCMP's investigation into a homicide death that occurred on January 1, 2025.

The Department of Health and Social Services provides Opioid Treatment Services, including medically supervised safer supply. Yukoners can call 867-668-2552 and self-refer for an appointment, which can often be scheduled the same day.



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Walk-ins for this service are also available. Opioid Treatment Services are provided at the Referred Care Clinic, and on an outreach basis at Blood Ties Four Directions (Supervised Consumption Site), 405 Alexander, Housing First and Cornerstone.

Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services offers Rapid Access Counselling in person, virtually, or by phone from Monday to Friday for anyone affected by substance use, whether you are someone who uses drugs, a support or a family member. They will book you an appointment within three business days of your call. You can reach them at 867-456-3838 or toll-free at 1-866-456-3838. The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Yukon Division provides Drop-in Counselling sessions, available in person, virtually, or over the phone from Monday to Saturday. Learn more at 867-668-6429. For immediate support, call the toll-free CMHA Yukon Reach Out Support Line - available daily from 10 am to 2 am at 1-844-533-3030.

Quote:

This has been a challenging and heartbreaking holiday season for the Yukon. I urge all of us to show kindness and empathy, as there is a critical need for tenderness and understanding. May we find our way to compassion and supporting the many who are grieving these losses.

The Yukon Coroner's Service continues to send our deepest condolences and support to the families and communities who have been impacted by these deaths.

Chief Coroner Heather Jones

Contact: For media inquiries contact the chief coroner [email heather.jones@yukon.ca, or phone 867-667-5317; toll free 1-800-661-0408, extension 5317].