



**Yukon  
Coroner's  
Service**

**News Release**

## **Chief Coroner calls Inquest**

**March 19, 2025** – In November of 2022, the Yukon Coroner's Service began investigating the death of Hugh Errol RIFFEL. The death of RIFFEL occurred in Whitehorse near the Erik Nielsen International Airport on November 24, 2022.

The Chief Coroner has determined that an inquest into the facts and circumstances of this death must be held under Section 41 (b) of the Coroner's Act, which states that an Inquest must be held into the death of a person who died while detained by or in the custody of a peace officer.

A Coroner's Inquest into the death of RIFFEL will begin on October 6, 2025, in Court Room #1 at the Andrew A. Philipsen Law Centre (2134 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon). Presiding Coroner Michael EGILSON and a jury will hear evidence from witnesses under oath to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding this death. The jury will have the opportunity to make recommendations aimed at preventing deaths in similar circumstances.

A Coroner's Inquest serves three primary functions:

- 1) *to determine the facts related to a death, including the identity of the deceased and how, when, where and by what means the individual came to their death, as well as a classification for the death;*
- 2) *to make recommendations, where appropriate and supported by evidence, to prevent deaths in similar circumstances; and*
- 3) *to ensure public confidence that the circumstances surrounding the death of an individual will not be overlooked, concealed or ignored.*

For more information about inquests, visit the [Coroner Inquest page](#).

As an inquest has been called, the Yukon Coroner Service will not be providing further comment at this time.