



**FOR PUBLIC RELEASE: Coroner Judgement of Inquiry and Inquest
Inquisition and Recommendations**

Department of Justice, Legal Services
Yukon Coroners Service
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Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of: Brendan Porter

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202016033

Name: Brendan Porter Date of Birth: 2005/07/19 Date of Death: 2016/07/27
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

Address: Watson Lake, Yukon
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: First Nations Location of Death: Airport Road, Watson Lake, Yukon

Cause of Death

(a) Blunt Force Traumatic Injuries (b) Motor Vehicle Collision

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

No autopsy was performed. Injuries were consistent with blunt force traumatic injuries incompatible with life.

Toxicological Findings

Toxicological testing revealed no alcohol, prescribed medications or illicit drugs.

Circumstances of Death

Brendan Porter was an 11 year old resident of Watson Lake, Yukon. On the evening of July 27, 2016, he was riding his CRF100 Honda motorcycle along a ditch off Airport Road in Watson Lake with an older rider on a separate motorcycle, traveling ahead of him.

Mr. Porter approached from a trail leading from the ditch to cross Airport Road and continued onto the road without stopping. A 2005 Silverado 2500 was traveling southbound along the road from the airport and collided with Mr. Porter. Mr. Porter was hit on the left side with the front end of the truck and was knocked to the ground and dragged for approximately 50 feet. Mr. Porter was immediately unresponsive and transferred to Watson Lake Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Inattention and inexperience were the major factors contributing to this death. Mr. Porter was wearing all the right safety gear and had received training and supervision prior to the incident. The manufacturer recommendation is to always have adult supervision, in order to remind young riders of the rules and responsibilities of riding off road.

Mr. Porter did not yield to oncoming motor vehicle traffic on the Airport Road. The bike he was riding was not manufactured for public roads or paved surfaces. The owner's manual clearly advised riders to dismount their motorcycle and walk across public roads.

There was a large stand of trees which created a view obstruction of the trail from motor vehicle drivers. The vehicle that struck Mr. Porter did not have any warning that a rider would come across the highway before it was too late to avoid the collision.

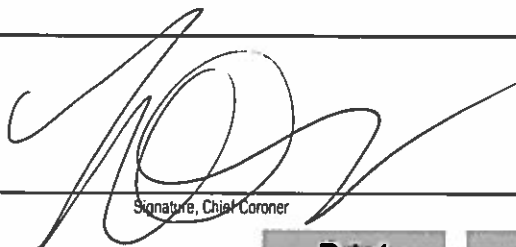
I therefore find that Brendan Porter came to his death on July 27, 2016 from Unnatural causes, to wit: Blunt Force Traumatic Injuries as a result of a Motor Vehicle Collision – Dirt Bike Rider.

Recommendations

TO: YUKON GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC WORKS

1. Install signage warning users of the quad/dirt bike trail to stop and yield to oncoming traffic on Airport Road; and
2. Ensure that trees and shrubs along Airport Road do not cause a view obstruction of motorists and/or trail users.

*This investigation was conducted by Chief Coroner K. MacDonald and turned over to A/CC Heather Jones on December 16, 2016. I am in full agreement with the facts as they were determined by Chief Coroner MacDonald in this document.



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

3/9/2018

Date

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