



# 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: Anil Kumar MEHTA

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202017049

Name: Anil Kumar MEHTA Date of Birth: 1963/09/12 Date of Death: 2017/10/18  
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD  
Address: Edmonton, Alberta  
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code  
Ethnic Origin: East Indian Location of Death: Km 1106 Alaska Highway

## Cause of Death

(a) Blunt Trauma (b) Motor Vehicle Incident-Driver

## Manner of Death

Accidental

## Autopsy Findings

A full post mortem examination was conducted at Vancouver General Hospital on October 30, 2017 by Dr. Jason MORIN. His examination concluded that death was the result of multiple blunt force injuries which would have immediately been incompatible with life.

## Toxicological Findings

Toxicological analysis demonstrated the presence of 11-carboxytetrahydrocannabinol and tetrahydrocannabinol confirming the use of cannabis prior to death.

### Circumstances of Death

It is understood that Mr. MEHTA had left Whitehorse early on October 18, 2017 en route for Edmonton. He was driving eastbound on the Alaska Highway in a 2008 Ford Edge SUV and was the sole occupant of the vehicle. A second vehicle, a 2014 Kenworth T800 tractor/trailer with a B-train configuration, was traveling westbound towards Whitehorse. At km 1106, the Kenworth began to slide for unknown reasons and encroached the path of travel of the SUV driven by MEHTA.

The front end of the SUV impacted with the front right corner of the Kenworth. Following impact, the SUV traveled southwest to final rest on the eastbound shoulder of the highway. The Kenworth traveled west and came to final rest in the westbound lane.

Mr. MEHTA was deceased at the scene.

The surface of the road was covered in hard packed snow over a thin layer of ice and it was reported that it was noticeably slippery under foot. Weather was reported to be -3C with snow flurries and some snow accumulation on the highway. The sky was overcast in dusky conditions.

The posted speed limit for the portion of highway is 100 km/h however there was insufficient evidence to be able to determine the speeds of either vehicle at the time of collision.

### Significant Factors/Conclusions

Mr. MEHTA was traveling eastbound on the Alaska Highway when a westbound vehicle appeared to have lost control and crossed the center line of the highway. The eastbound vehicle collided with the SUV driven by Mr. MEHTA. Injuries sustained by Mr. MEHTA were immediately fatal.

Weather and slippery road conditions contributed to the loss of control from the westbound driver.

I therefore find that Anil Kumar MEHTA came to his death on October 18, 2017 from Unnatural causes, to wit: (a) Blunt Trauma (b) Motor Vehicle Collision – Driver.

I classify his death as Accidental.

### Recommendations

No recommendations



Signature of Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

21/08/2018

Date

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Clear