



**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:** John Ross Robert Ancio

**Coroner Investigative File No.:** 45202013037

Name: John Ross Robert Ancio Date of Birth: 1957/06/16 Date of Death: 2013/10/02  
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD  
Address: 967 - 7th Avenue, Dawson City, Yukon  
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code  
Ethnic Origin: Caucasian Location of Death: 967 -7th Avenue, Dawson City, Yukon

**Cause of Death**

Asphyxiation due to a consequence of Hanging

**Manner of Death**

Suicide

**Autopsy Findings**

No autopsy

**Toxicological Findings**

Use of alcohol 0.02%. No prescribed medications or illicit drugs detected.

## Circumstances of Death

On October 2, 2013, the body of John Ancio was found in his home, suspended by a ligature around his neck. An investigation was initiated and the death was ruled Suicide. Mr. Ancio had significant risk factors for suicide, including several high-risk diagnosis. Mr. Ancio was hospitalized at Whitehorse General Hospital on June 4, 2013, August 4, 2013 and August 19, 2013. All three admissions were related to suicidal ideation and/or attempted suicide. Each time, Mr. Ancio was assessed, and released back to the community with seemingly little in the way of short or long-term planning. In one instance, Mr. Ancio was treated for a serious suicide attempt and was discharged back home within three hours. Mr. Ancio told numerous professionals of his intent to suicide. When Mr. Ancio voiced a plan to use a motor vehicle to suicide, his driver's license was suspended under section 17(3) and 18(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act. Mr. Ancio was discharged from hospital and connected with mental health services but it was questioned whether or not he would actually engage in this help. There was no evidence that a safety plan had been created for Mr. Ancio. Charting describes Mr. Ancio as being at an "increased risk of completion of suicide," and that he "stated his usual wish not to live." In the two months before his death, Mr. Ancio attempted suicide three times, lost his drivers' license, and was evicted from his Yukon Housing apartment. Mr. Ancio was advised on October 1, 2013 that he would be evicted effective October 9, 2013. His body was found on October 2, 2013.

## Significant Factors/Conclusions

Mr. Ancio had a recent history of serious suicide attempts before he died on October 2, 2013. In the two months prior to his death, Mr. Ancio had three suicide attempts requiring medical intervention. Each time, he was treated and discharged back to the community. Yukon communities vary in the provision of mental health services. Mental health services are available either by Government of Yukon, through physicians and nurses in communities, or by contract service providers. The scope of services for chronic, serious, persistent mental health conditions is inconsistent across Yukon. Management of serious mental health issues in rural Yukon can be dependent on the scope and experience of local service providers. Limitations in scope may exist where staff is not as experienced, familiar, and/or comfortable supporting individuals with serious mental health issues. Yukoners would benefit from a more standardized approach to service for chronic, serious mental health issues. Clients and patients would benefit from rural service providers collaborating and consulting with other professionals who see these types of cases more regularly. Admitting persons to hospital is one way to mitigate immediate danger of self harm. Admission to hospital can provide opportunity for adjustment of medication, assessment by qualified persons, and the creation of both short and long-term planning. Long term planning and adequate resources are essential to ensure that people in Yukon with mental health issues have the best chance for wellness - regardless of what community they reside in.

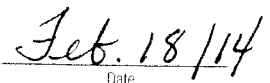
## Recommendations

To: Department of Health & Social Services, Yukon Government

- #1 Implement a policy requiring that rural Yukon service providers working to support clients with serious, chronic mental health issues consult with Mental Health Service clinicians to collaborate on management and support options.
- #2 Develop a protocol for follow up when an individual has been released from hospital to a rural community following a suicide attempt. Steps should be taken to ensure communication regarding short and long-term treatment planning and crisis intervention strategies.
- #3 Determine the feasibility of using tele-health to provide a complete scope of services to mental health clients across Yukon (especially those with serious, persistent, mental health issues) such as assessment, monitoring, treatment, and counseling by Whitehorse-based specialists and clinicians.
- #4 Ensure that all people of Yukon have access to consistent mental health services. People residing in Yukon communities should receive a comparable level of service and support for mental health as they would if they lived in Whitehorse.

  
Signature, Chief Coroner

  
Province/Territory

  
Date

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