



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

Department of Justice, Legal Services  
Yukon Coroners Service  
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<b>Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of:</b> <u>Lorene Robertson</u>		
<b>Coroner Investigative File No.:</b> <u>45202014024</u>		
Name: <u>Lorene Robertson</u>	Date of Birth: <u>55/05/04</u> <small>YYYY/MM/DD</small>	Date of Death: <u>2014/08/19</u> <small>YYYY/MM/DD</small>
Address: <u>Lot 14 Jackfish Bay, Yukon</u> <small>Street Address</small>	<small>Province/Territory</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>
Ethnic Origin: <u>Caucasian</u>	Location of Death: <u>Whitehorse General Hospital</u>	

## Cause of Death

Traumatic Brain Injury (due to) Falling from a Horse

## Manner of Death

Accidental

## Autopsy Findings

No autopsy

Medical imaging revealed traumatic brain injuries which included right parietal subarachnoid hemorrhage, a left mediotemporal lobe contusion, intraventricular hemorrhage of the third and lateral ventricle with no evidence of any hydrocephalus or brain edema. There was no obvious fracture of the C spine.

## Toxicological Findings

No toxicology.

### Circumstances of Death

Ms. Robertson was an experienced horse rider. On July 3, 2014, Ms. Robertson and her horse, were at a saddle fitting clinic at a local riding arena. A saddle was put on the horse and Ms. Robertson was riding to test the fit. The horse suddenly bolted and started bucking. Ms. Robertson was unseated and landed on the hard packed dirt floor of the riding arena. Ms. Robertson was wearing a riding helmet at the time of the accident.

Ms. Robertson was immediately knocked unconscious and was not breathing. She started breathing again on her own, although her breathing was labored. Emergency Medical Services was notified and departed for the scene at 12:53hrs. The ambulance arrived on scene at 13:12hrs.

Ms. Robertson was transferred by air medevac to Vancouver General Hospital for significant traumatic brain injury. Ms. Robertson remained in the Intensive Care Unit at Vancouver General Hospital for three weeks. She was repatriated back to Whitehorse General Hospital with a palliative care direction. Ms. Robertson died of her injuries on August 19, 2014.

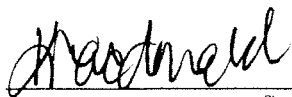
### Significant Factors/Conclusions

Ms. Robertson was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident. She was was an experienced horse rider, who was familiar with the horse she was riding.

Despite wearing a helmet, Ms. Robertson sustained serious, unrecoverable, traumatic brain injury when she was unseated from the horse and landed on the ground.

### Recommendations

No recommendations



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

January 22/15

Date

