



# 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: Justin Seath KOLLA

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202017038

Name: Justin KOLLA Date of Birth: 1986/07/22 Date of Death: 2017/09/02  
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD  
Address: Whitehorse, Yukon  
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code  
Ethnic Origin: Caucasian Location of Death: 32 Miles north of Faro, Yukon

## Cause of Death

(a) Blunt Force Traumatic Injuries (b) Aviation Incident-Pilot

## Manner of Death

Accidental

## Autopsy Findings

A full post mortem examination was conducted at Vancouver General Hospital on September 7, 2017 by Dr. Matthew ORDE. His examination concluded that death was the result of multiple blunt force injuries which would have immediately been incompatible with life

## Toxicological Findings

Toxicological analyses for alcohol and a range of drugs of abuse and therapeutic medications were negative.

### Circumstances of Death

On September 2, 2017 Mr. KOLLA was piloting a privately registered Champion 7GCBC aircraft between Whitehorse, Yukon and Russell Creek (40 nautical miles north of Faro, Yukon).

Almost 2 hours into the flight, near Mount Menzie, the aircraft encountered clouds and a sudden reduction in visibility. The pilot lost control of the aircraft and impacted the ground on the south face of Mount Menzie.

Mr. KOLLA sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

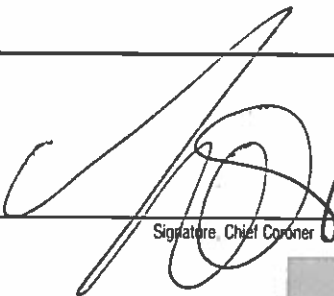
### Significant Factors/Conclusions

Deteriorating weather and pilot disorientation were major factors contributing to this death. Mr. KOLLA flew into clouds and lost visual reference to the ground. Section 3.7 of the Transport Canada Aeronautical Information Manual (effective 12 October 2017 to 29 March 2018), describes pilot disorientation in the following manner: "Pilots sometimes refer to disorientation as "vertigo", by which they mean not knowing which way is up. On the ground, spatial orientation is sensed by the combination of vision, muscle sense, and specialized organs in the inner ear that sense accelerations and position. Vision is the strongest of the orienting senses. However, in a whiteout or when flying in cloud, it is sometimes impossible to orient oneself by reference to the horizon. Under these conditions, the pilot is completely dependent upon the flight instruments and learned flying skills for control of the aircraft. Under no circumstances should the pilot rely upon his senses alone for orientation." (page 413). Evidence indicates that Mr. KOLLA's aircraft impacted the ground with power at cruise settings suggesting he was disorientated with regard to his position.

I therefore find that Justin Seath KOLLA came to his death on September 2, 2017 from Unnatural causes, to wit:(a) Multiple Blunt Force Injuries (b) Aviation Incident-Pilot

### Recommendations

No recommendations



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

16/08/2018

Date

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