

British Columbia Coroners Service

As at: August 9, 2013

Released: [12 July 2011](#)

First Follow-up: [October 2012](#)

Second Follow-up: [April 2013](#)

Discussed by the Public Accounts Committee: 2 November 2011

Self-assessment conducted by **Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner**

Comments

“The Coroners Service is continuing to build knowledge and expertise in support of public health and safety in British Columbia. Independent, thorough, and timely coroners’ reports, expert death reviews, public inquests and death review panels all support public safety by accurately determining the circumstances of death in British Columbia and supporting interventions and initiatives to prevent similar loss of life in the future. The Service is actively engaged in building partnerships with other agencies, ministries and stakeholders to use accurate and timely mortality data in support of meaningful policies and practices. Objective, impartial investigations and reviews conducted by the Coroners Service support public confidence in the agency’s recommendations and advisories, and ensure critical questions and concerns are addressed.”

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED IN PREVIOUS FOLLOW-UP REPORT(S)	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
Recommendation 1: The BC Coroners Service develop a strategic plan, endorsed by ministry executive, that defines the service’s role in preventing deaths and supporting public safety and includes strategies for fulfilling that role.	Fully or substantially implemented
Recommendation 2: The BC Coroners Service develop a communications strategy as a component of its strategic plan.	Fully or substantially implemented
Recommendation 4: The BC Coroners Service include performance targets for the timeliness of investigations and reviews in its service plan and then report on actual performance in its annual report.	Fully or substantially implemented
Recommendation 5: The Chief Coroner and Ministry executive confirm and document the authority and operational independence of the BC Coroners Service, review this agreement annually, and report to the minister any potential risks to operational independence.	Fully or substantially implemented
Recommendation 7: The BC Coroners Service review the community coroner staffing model and explore options that can better support the long-term effectiveness of the BC Coroners Service.	Fully or substantially implemented

All information has been provided by the organization and has not been audited.

Outstanding Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
<p>Recommendation 3: The BC Coroners Service prepare, and make public, an annual service plan and an annual report that follow the BC Reporting Principles.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p>	
<p>“The Coroners Service most recent annual report substantially follows the BC Reporting Principles, as will subsequent reports. At this time, the Service does not publish its own annual service plan. This information is included in the Ministry of Justice Service Plan.”</p>	
<p>Recommendation 6: The BC Coroners Service include in its strategic plan strategies for maintaining and developing the coroner expertise required to meet the service’s mandate.</p>	<p>Fully or substantially implemented</p>
<p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p>	
<p>“The Coroners Service Strategic Plan confirms the importance of maintaining and developing coroner expertise and includes strategies to achieve that goal. One of those strategies is the implementation of a redesigned coroners’ training program. In support of that strategy, a Learning and Development Coordinator role has been established within the agency and an incumbent has been recently hired.”</p>	
<p>Recommendation 8: The BC Coroners Service include in its strategic plan strategies for using data and trend analysis to identify risks to public safety, inform activities to improve public safety, and measure the impact of recommendations.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p>	
<p>“The Coroners Service continues to utilize information gathered through coroners’ investigations to build mortality data in support of identifying risks to public safety and inform activities to improve public safety. Projects to measure the impact of recommendations are now in the early planning stages.”</p>	

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