

**Aboriginal deaths and injuries in custody and/or with police  
Involvement:**

**An Initial Survey of Information and Incidents in British Columbia,  
Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario**

**Preliminary Report**

**Report to Native Courtworker and Counselling  
Association of British Columbia**

**Nancy Hannum, Researcher**

**September 23, 2003**

## **Preliminary Report**

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#### **Table of Contents**

Background	p. 3
Goals of this report	p. 4
Findings to date	p. 4
Findings: Federal/ Provincial Agencies	p. 6
British Columbia	p. 8
Saskatchewan	p.10
Manitoba	p.11
Ontario	p.13
Federal Government	p.13
Related initiatives	p.15
Conclusion	p.16
End Notes	p.18

## **Preliminary Report**

### **Aboriginal Deaths and Injuries in Custody and/or with Police Involvement: An Initial Survey of Information and Incidents in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario**

Report to Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC  
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#### **Background**

The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly passed a resolution in summer, 2003 regarding “too many shootings of Aboriginal people by police and too many deaths of Aboriginal people while in police custody.” The Chiefs requested that the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC provide a report to the Summit on Aboriginal people in BC and Canada who, in the last 50 years have been shot by police, have died in custody or have died as a result of police action or inaction. This report to the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association outlines the results of an initial survey of information sources and incidents. It is limited to four provinces and recent years.

The over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system has been documented for many years. The 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples *Bridging the Cultural Divide: A report on Aboriginal People and Criminal Justice in Canada* states “Reports and inquiries since (1967) have not only confirmed the fact of over-representation but, most alarmingly, have demonstrated that the problem is getting worse, not better.” They refer to Michael Jackson’s work *Locking up Natives in Canada* which shows “in the Pacific region Native prisoners constitute about 12 % of the penitentiary population while less than 5% of the region’s general population is of Native ancestry.” P 28-29

In 2000/01 Statistics Canada reported that admissions to Provincial and Federal Custody in British Columbia had increased to 20% Aboriginal up from 15% in 1996/97. (1)

A figure quoted in *Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities* suggests that in the last 20 years 43% of people shot and killed by the RCMP in Alberta have been of First Nations ancestry. (2)

A report in the *Vancouver Courier* (03/02/03) which stated that the BC Coroners Service show 60 per cent of all First Nations deaths while incarcerated in the past decade occurred in police custody. For the Non-Aboriginal population, the figure is 25 per cent. During the last decade, when a First Nations person died in custody, the Coroner ruled that the cause of death was undetermined in 20 per cent of cases. The undetermined rate for the non-First Nations inmate population was eight per cent. Accidents were ruled the cause of death in 40 per cent of the First Nations cases but only 28 per cent for non-First Nations. February 03, 2003 (3) Confirmation of this information has been requested from the BC Coroners Service.

**Goals of this report:**

- A) To identify names of Aboriginal victims of police involved deaths or serious injuries from key government agencies in four provinces, as Aboriginal organizations and people, web and media reports, Aboriginal justice inquiries.
- B) To identify the key agencies in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Federal Government that collect and report information regarding Aboriginal deaths in custody or police involvement in incidents of death or serious injury.
- C) To collect information from these agencies and identify what relevant information they do and do not report.

**Findings: List of Aboriginal people injured by police or died in police custody. The list is incomplete.**

The study identified names of Aboriginal individuals who died in police custody, or were injured or killed in police related incidents. Here is a sample based on cases referred to in Aboriginal organization documents, individual memories of Native Courtworkers, the media, police complaints or coroner’s reports. The list represents only those cases that have been publicized or remembered, there will be others.

<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>
Fred Quilt	Williams Lake/beaten	Nov 26/71	2 Coroner’s Inquests
Irvin Stump	Anahim Lake Officer charged/assault Acquitted/later AG investigation	July5/73	Vancouver Sun May 29/74
Thomas Prince	Ft St. James/died custody	1977	Coroner’s Report requested

Clarence Jack	Ladysmith/died in custody	August, 1982	Vancouver Sun, Oct 29/83
Harvey Jack	broken neck/no attn Nanaimo custody	October 28,83	Vancouver Sun
Richard Alfred Mountain	beaten/Vancouver McKenzie Inquiry	Nov,1983	VPL clipping files/many articles
Victor George	Port Alberni?	April 4, 1991	Coroner's Report-requested
Frank Bell(21)	Vancouver/shot	March/92	Vancouver Courier Feb3/03
Benjamin Dickson	Bella Bella	Dec 26,1994	Coroner's Report requested
Adeline Wilson	Duncan	1993	Coroner's Report requested
Stanley George Paul	Victoria	May 26, 1997	Coroner's Report requested
Frank Paul	Vanc/died in alley/video	December 6/98	Coroner's Report Nov 8/99
Anthany James Dawson	Victoria died in custody	Aug 13/99	Coroner's Inquest Dec 1/00
Shelly Etzerza Dallas Leighton	Vancouver/mistaken pepper spray/shoved Police Board Panel	1999	The Province Jan 20/00
Paul Alphonse (67)	Williams Lake Died in custody	Ap 18/00	Coroner's Inquest March 8/02
Richard William Allen	Terrace/in custody Suicide	July 4/01	Coroner's Inquest May 15/03
Francis Joseph Mark	Port Alberni	Oct 26/01	Coroner's Report -requested
Peter Prince	Prince George/in custody	Nov 9/01	Coroner's Inquest Nov 27/02
Darrell Paquette	Prince George death/mall	Sept/02	Coroner's inquest on Sept 29/03
Clayton Alvin Willey (33)	PG died in custody	July22/03	CBC radio "5 <sup>th</sup> Aboriginal man in Northern BC in 3 years"
Lorraine Jacobsen	Alert Bay/domestic/RCMP	Mar/03	Times Colonist
Adam Wayne Beadle	Campbell River	?	Coroner's Report – requested
Joey Peters	Comox	?	Coroner's Report requested
Frank Watts	Prince Rupert	?	Coroner's Report-requested

## Alberta

Corrine Jacobs + son      Tsuu T'ina/domestic/RCMP Mar/98      CBC.ca  
 Note AG of BC investigated  
 Inquiry report Mar 15, 2002

## Saskatchewan

Neil Stonechild (17)	Saskatoon/froze-to-death	Nov 29/90	CBC Investigation started Sept 8/03
Lloyd Dustyhorn (53)	“ “	Jan 19/00	“
Rodney Naistus (25)	“ “	Jan 29/00	“
Lawrence Wegner (30)	“ “	Feb 3/00	“
Darrell Night	lived/but police admit	Jan 28/00	
Darwin Robert Campbell	killed by RCMP car	Sept 15/02	Regina Leader Post
Male age 19	run over by RCMP car	Sept 12/03	Regina Leader Post

## Manitoba

JJ Harper	Winnipeg/shot by RCMP	March,1988	Aboriginal Justice Inquiry
Floyd Head	Moose Lake, Manitoba/killed In RCMP incident	Pre 1988	Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission ch 9
Jason Daniels	Brandon, injured in Shooting incident	“	“
Patrick Dan De La Ronde	Wpg/injured “	“	“
young men	Winnipeg beatings/no provocation	Nov/02	Grand Chief Margaret Swan See Canoe.ca news
children	children in jail/child welfare workers Gas sniffing/Manitoba Paungassi First Nation	Dec 18/02	Turtleisland.com

## Ontario

Dudley George	Ipperwash Provincial Park shooting death	Sept 6/95	Windspeaker
	Kenneth Deane guilty and resigned 2 others wounded 1 aboriginal man brutally beaten		
Ramsey Whitefish	Toronto Police beating	June 21/02	Turtleisland.com Windspeaker

## Yukon

Harley Clayton Johnnie(22) shot in Whitehorse  
(Harley Timmers)

Sept.8, 2003

Windspeaker

### **Findings: Federal/Provincial Agencies**

The study concludes that is no apparent systematic compilation of information about Aboriginal deaths in custody or Aboriginal people shot or injured by police.

The details that follow outline those statistics that were discovered and the variety of means and sources that resulted in the statistics. Many of the statistical reports are incomplete or are based on very recent information, so they cannot be compared to earlier years.

Although Federal and Provincial agencies have statistics about deaths in custody or reviews of police incidents, some agencies rigorously avoid the identification of racial origin. Other agencies correlate racial origin for some statistics but not death statistics. Still others do specifically identify Aboriginal or Native origin. One informant quoted the Federal Statistics Act saying it is an offense to collect data regarding racial origin. (S 9 of the Statistics Act disallows the Act to be used to “discriminate between individuals or companies to the prejudice of those individuals or companies”)

There is variation in the reporting and collecting of data about racial origin. Due to the development of automated tracking systems in the 1990's, it is possible that this information may be available internally in some of these agencies. If this is so, there are a variety of options:

- In some cases it may require searching individual case files to identify Aboriginal persons.
- The agency would have to undertake more statistical analysis to correlate cause of death or nature of police actions with the Aboriginal or racial origin of the victim.
- Direction from senior officials to collect and release this information may be required.
- Several agencies have suggested this would require Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

If there is no identification of racial origin in the internal files, it may require the permission of senior officials to allow researchers to view the files of persons who died or were seriously injured. Researchers would then seek to identify the Aboriginal persons within this group. In all cases, it is important to know how the information about racial origin is determined.

## **Agencies reviewed**

Provincial institutions identified are Vital Statistics, Corrections, Provincial Coroners or Chief Medical Officers, Police review or complaints agencies and Police/RCMP as well as current or previous Aboriginal justice inquiries. At the Federal level they are Corrections, RCMP, Statistics Canada including Juristat, DIAND, Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, and Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

The following is an annotated list of sources that were searched for statistics or records of Aboriginal deaths in custody or with police involvement. Documentation is attached for each agency.

## **British Columbia**

BC Corrections, the BC Coroner's Service and Correctional Services Canada provided a breakdown of Aboriginal deaths. BC Corrections staff reported 2 Aboriginal deaths in Custody (in Provincial Institutions) in the last 5 years. Statistics Canada shows a total of 15 deaths (Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal) in Provincial Institutions in BC since 1998.

### **BC Corrections**

Original information was that statistics are collected regarding nature of death in custody but not identified by racial group. Staff suggested this information would require a Freedom of Information request. However, on Sept 8, 2003 Wayne Willows, Director of Programs and Strategic Services of BC Corrections reported that there have been two known Aboriginal deaths in the last five years; a woman died by suicide at the BC Correction Centre for Women on September 22, 1999 and a man died in hospital of complication from HIV-Aids shortly after entering BC Corrections on April 5, 2002. Mr. Willows also indicated that it would be more difficult to trace the information much further back, as it would require staff research in less automated records.

### **Provincial Coroner**

Statistics collected by type of death and region. In some offices Coroner's files indicate native heritage, others seem not to show this information. In 2002 there were a total (i.e. not showing racial origin) of 10 deaths in which police involvement was indicated.

### **Police Services Division of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

This Division is the central collection agency for criminal justice statistics in BC regarding police and does not collect data on ethnicity. The Division's *Crime and Police Statistics* identify types of crimes by regions of BC.



## Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner

No statistics are kept of complainant's Aboriginal or ethnic origin. "We treat everyone equally".

### Aboriginal Justice Inquiry/Policing Inquiry

Cariboo-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry (1993). *Report of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry*. Victoria: Attorney General of British Columbia. One person Commissioner Justice Anthony Sarich investigated allegations of prejudice and unfair treatment of Cariboo-Chilcotin community by the provincial justice system.

The Inquiry Report gives detailed reports of numerous cases of police over-reaction, abuse of authority and invasion of privacy, lack of communication as well as cases in which calls to the police for missing persons were not taken seriously. Note that the Inquiry Report includes 179 incidents and exhibits brought before the Commissioner, many of which are allegations of excessive force, or delay in police response to local calls. (4)

*Closing the Gap: Policing and the Community*. Wallace T. Oppal 1994 Victoria, Attorney General of British Columbia

The Commission of Inquiry into Policing in British Columbia had a broad mandate to look at policing in the province. It held hearings throughout the province and produced a two-volume report at the end of two years.

Included in the report is a section on Aboriginal Policing which made 26 recommendations encouraging development of Aboriginal policing and improved procedures, communications, recruitment, training in other police forces. Specific incidents were not described in the report; however there are references to staff research and community briefs that suggest that some specific incidents were discussed. The report states:

*In several days of hearings at the Carnegie Centre in the Downtown Eastside we heard many complaints from Native people relating to their treatment by police. There was a general feeling of frustration and alienation amongst the Native community. Many believe it is ineffective to register a complaint. Also the location of the complaint bureau within the police station deters an aboriginal person who is wary of the police. There is a perception that many reactive, incident-driven policing methods used in the area are not appropriate to the community situation. Submissions and data acquired by Inquiry researchers indicate that an undercurrent of hostility has developed between aboriginal residents and police in the Downtown Eastside. One person interviewed commented, "Just being Native is reason enough for police to stop an individual." P. G-27*

Aside from amendments to the Police Act this study was unable to identify any follow-up or monitoring of results of the Oppal Inquiry's recommendations.

## **Saskatchewan**

Department of Corrections and Public Safety.

Annual Report 2002/03 reports goals accomplished but does not provide statistical information. The Department made a presentation to the Commission on First Nations and Metis Peoples and Justice Reform (no statistics re Aboriginal deaths).

See also the *Response to the Provincial Ombudsman Special Report on Inmate Services and Conditions of Custody in Saskatchewan Correctional Centres*, May 2003

*"The review was the result of investigations by the Ombudsman's Office of complaints by individual inmates on a variety of issues involving the manner in which services are provided and fairness in decision making." P. 1*

The report does not include specific statistics about Aboriginal inmates although it identifies Correctional Services for Aboriginal Inmates as one of 13 key areas of impact on inmate services and conditions of custody.

Provincial Coroner

The Director of the Saskatchewan Coroners Branch reports:

The number of Aboriginal deaths in custody or police incidents from 1995 – 2002 inclusive is:

(The years stated below are the year of the inquest and not necessarily the year of the death, although in many cases the inquest is held in the same year the death occurred.)

1995	4 deaths in custody and 1 police shooting
1996	2 deaths in custody and 1 police shooting
1997	4 deaths in custody
1998	5 deaths in custody
1999	1 death in custody
2000	5 deaths in custody
2001	2 deaths in custody
2002	4 deaths in custody and 1 police shooting

Total 27 deaths in custody and 3 police shooting (1995 – 2002)

Saskatchewan Police Complaints Investigator

Similar to other such provincial agencies, the report cites specific cases with little or no mention of racial origin of complainants.

Commission on First Nations and Metis Peoples and Justice Reform est. November 2002  
Impetus for this report was “the deaths of two Aboriginal men in January 2000 and the abuse of a third man at the hands of Saskatoon police officers” The Commission has the *intent of devising solutions to overcome systemic discriminatory practices and address attitudes based on racial or cultural prejudice*. The Commission is conducting extensive community dialogues, and meetings with a range of officials, media, and political leaders. There is a specific roundtable on Police Issues. In addition Policing is one of eight critical issues identified. Interim report regarding implementation process will be released in September 2003. Final Report scheduled for March 2004.

Note: The Commission’s web site includes a summary and bibliography of other Aboriginal Justice Inquiries. See [www.justicereformcomm.sk.ca](http://www.justicereformcomm.sk.ca)

Anecdotal information received from a staff person:

*If you are Aboriginal and die in custody or following an incident involving police it takes much longer for an inquest to be held. For example, one such case was 553 days between death and inquest. Inquests for deaths in custody happen slightly quicker than deaths involving police.*

## **Manitoba**

### **Corrections**

From e-mail response Ron Parkinson, Manager, Information Systems forwarded by Terry Rempel Corrections, Department of Justice:

*There is no data on aboriginal status for Correctional custody before Inmate Tracking System in 1990 and what was there was probably unreliable until 2001 when we started “enforcing” that this be recorded in COMS.*

*Looking at Correctional events “terminated” with the reason reported as “Death-other” and Death-suicide’ since April 98:*

*98/04/12 suicide by hanging at BCC, person recorded as ‘Metis’*

*02/05/06 death from cancer at WRC (died in hospital while still an inmate) non-native,*

*03/04/18 death (cause not reported) at WRC (died in hospital while still an inmate) status native.*

*This covers a 5 year period with an average death rate while ‘in custody’ of one every other year.*

*Stats Canada has data on ‘reported deaths while in custody’ for all jurisdictions and the federal corrections in Adult Corrections Survey. However, these data are not separated by Aboriginal status. The rates for Manitoba in years prior to 1998 are not dissimilar.*

## Chief Medical Examiner

Manitoba does not have a Coroner system (which does not require the Coroner to be a Doctor); the Medical Examiner system does require an MD. The ME's office may have collected information about racial origin in the past but no longer does so "because it is so difficult to determine".

All deaths are reviewed by an Inquest Review Committee of which there are three:

- 1) For all children under 17 – this committee includes a representative of the Manitoba Association of Chiefs.
- 2) Adults 18 – 65
- 3) Adults 65 +

## Law Enforcement Review Agency (LERA)

*LERA is an independent, non-police agency, established under the Law Enforcement Review Act in 1985, to investigate public complaints about police. LERA deals only with complaints about municipal police performance arising out of the performance of police duties. It does not investigate criminal matters. These are referred to the Crown Attorney's office. Note that it does include investigations of 'discriminating on the basis of race...'*

***The Manitoba Justice Annual Report 2001/02*** reports that the office investigated 330 complaints in 01/02. LERA's website posts decisions but only gives file numbers for pending hearings.

Commissioner George Wright stated that LERA does not keep records on ethnicity. He has received a legal opinion that for a civilian oversight agency to collect such statistics would indicate bias.

## Native Justice Reviews

Hamilton, A.C., and Sinclair, C.M. (1991) ***Report of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba***. Winnipeg: Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba. (style) 3 vol.

*During the course of our Inquiry, we became aware of a number of serious incidents involving police and Aboriginal people. These include the death of J.J. Harper, but also include the death of Floyd Head from Moose Lake, killed some years ago in an incident involving the RCMP; Jason Daniels, seriously injured in a shooting incident with the Brandon City Police; and Patrick Dan De La Ronde, seriously injured in a recent shooting incident with the City of Winnipeg Police. Volume III, Chapter 9*

Note also a reference to complaints heard by the Inquiry in Volume I Chapter 16, no names given. The Report also includes an extensive Case List in the Appendix that may refer to other incidents.

*Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission. Final Report 2001.* Manitoba: Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission.

No specific incidents mentioned. However, Chapter 7 'Policing' reviews Recommendations of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry followed and not followed by police forces in Manitoba since Inquiry's Report in 1991.

Also note: *Aboriginal Policing in Manitoba; a Report to the Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission (nd)* Rick Linden, Donald Clairmont, Chris Murphy. Manitoba: Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission that reviews progress of the Seven Central Principles of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.

## **Ontario**

### Office of the Chief Coroner

Web does include a schedule of upcoming inquests. Staff reported that they do not keep records of ethnicity.

### Special Investigations Unit

*The SIU is a civilian law enforcement agency, independent of the police, that investigates circumstances involving police and civilians which have resulted in serious injury, including sexual assault, or death.*

According to Communications Manager, Rose Hong SIU does not report data by ethnic origin. However the SIU's extensive web site reports some statistics re types of occurrences and extensive case files. (see attached)

Hong reports that in Ontario in 2002 there were 86 injuries involving police and 15 deaths. She receives requests from ethnic communities about the numbers of deaths in their community and suggests that if SIU were to provide racial origin information for one group they would have to do it for all. "This is very sensitive information to collect." She also reports that to get this information they would have to go back through all their case files.

## **Federal**

### Statistics Canada/Juristat

According to Robert Allen, Senior Analyst for the Canadian Centre for Justice Information they "do not have any data on inmate deaths by ethnicity/visible minority or aboriginal for Canada or any province/territory."

Statistics Canada's publication *Adult Correctional Services in Canada* (5) shows deaths of Federal and Provincial Offenders by cause of death; these statistics are attached. In summary, from 1995, they are:

**Total Deaths in Federal/Provincial Institutions**

	<b>Federal (total)</b>	<b>Provincial (total)</b>	<b>BC (Provincial)</b>
1994/95	88	57	5
1995/96	75	50	5
1996/97	146	44	1
1997/98	152	43	0
1998/99	158	40	5
1999/00	144	50	6
2000/01	111	53	4
<b>Total (1994-2001)</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>26</b>

## Notes:

The statistics include figures for deaths in custody and deaths on temporary absence. Provincial deaths are also classified as to cause of death: suicide, murder, natural cause and other (accidental and reason for death not provided).

Deaths in Federal Institutions classify cause of death as follows: suicide, murder, legal intervention (which includes offenders killed by authorities while committing an offence such as hostage-taking incidents and escapes) unknown and other (death from natural causes and accidental deaths.)

**Correctional Services Canada**

Thanks to Alvin Kube, (Aboriginal Branch Correctional Services Canada) the following information has been received from Correctional Services Canada:

**Aboriginal deaths in Federal Institutions Canada-wide.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Aboriginal deaths while incarcerated</b>	<b>while on parole</b>
1995	5	6
1996	5	3
1997	6	7
1998	10	11
1999	8	10
2000	6	6
2001	6	10
2002	5	6
<b>Total (1995-2002)</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>

No indication of cause of death.

Mike Hayden (CSC) cautions however that he has not had time to verify each case. “For example one offender died while Unlawfully At Large from an Escorted Temporary Absence. This offender shows as having died in an institution. There may be other cases like this so it is best to use these numbers with caution.”

The following list shows Statistics Canada figures for total deaths in custody correlated with the figures from Correctional Services Canada for Aboriginal deaths while incarcerated or on parole from Federal Institutions .

**In Federal Institutions**

	<b>Aboriginal deaths in custody or on parole</b>	<b>Aboriginal Federal Offenders</b>
1996	5% of total deaths	12.4% of Offender population
1996	8.5%	13.5%
1997	14%	14.5%
1998	12.5%	not available
1999	11%	not available

**Commission for Complaints Against the RCMP**

Case reports are individual; identification of Aboriginal or ethnicity seems to be carefully avoided.

The *2002/03 Annual Report* includes a section on ‘Outreach to Aboriginal Communities’ which states:

*Despite media reports of a troubled relationship between Aboriginal Canadians and the RCMP, few formal complaints about RCMP members have originated from aboriginal communities since the Commission was created in 1988.*

*Since the Commission’s investigative powers are generally triggered by a public complaint, it is more difficult for the Commission to contribute to solutions for better policing unless people make full use of the complaint process.*

*This year, the Commission made a concerted effort to reach out to Aboriginal communities. Complaints from Aboriginal people have been identified by the Chair as a priority.*

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples 1991 -1996

***Bridging the Cultural Divide: A Report on Aboriginal People and Criminal Justice in Canada.*** Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Canada RCAP 1995

This report of the RCAP includes reviews the recommendations and results of earlier inquiries into Aboriginal Justice. It also provides useful statistical information and analysis on the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system. (P 28ff)

Law Commission of Canada est. 1990

*Found: The present system fails the Aboriginal peoples... Canada's current sentencing laws are archaic and inadequate... in our view, the current regime fails to respect the Charter's guarantees of equality and fundamental justice in a number of important respects.*

### **Related Initiatives**

#### **Australian Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody**

The Commission was established in 1987 to investigate deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that occurred in custody throughout Australia from May 1, 1980 – May 31, 1989. (99 deaths during this period) The two-volume Report includes 339 recommendations, almost all accepted by government. Note that according to an abstract by the Australian Institute of Criminology “Aboriginal organizations have generally rejected the RC’s findings and are frustrated at what they see as inadequate implementation of many of the Commission’s key recommendations.” The Report includes various related research and several full inquiries into individual deaths. There seems to be extensive documentation and monitoring to follow up this report. See attached materials (7) and note that some of the reports are at either UBC or UVIC Law School libraries.

#### **Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Chiefs - Policing and Aboriginal peoples committee report – 2003 Annual Conference of Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.**

August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The Policing and Aboriginal peoples’ committee chair Bill Currie (Deputy Commissioner of the OPP) reported to the annual conference of the CACP:

*“We do not provide equitable service to marginalized people, said Currie, who chairs the association’s policing and aboriginal peoples committee.*

*Your committee analyzed statistical, investigative and anecdotal information from across the country and we had no choice but to come to this regrettable conclusion.”*



*The committee examined how police responded to reports of missing aboriginal people, specifically in BC and Ontario, Currie said, its findings characterize police treatment of all marginalized communities.*

Toronto Star August 26, 2003

The Association has dedicated \$450,000 over three years. to the Law Enforcement Aboriginal and Diversity Network (LEAD) to create a network of national, provincial, regional municipal and aboriginal community police across Canada to address gaps in cultural understandings and the capacity of police officers to serve Aboriginal and diverse communities. It will include a website-based forum for information sharing and best practices and to develop national standards. (8). LEAD is a partnership between the Multiculturalism Program of Canadian Heritage and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and is facilitated by the RCMP.

### **Queens University study on causes of death in Federal Institutions**

Researchers from the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Queen's University and the Regional Coroner's Office in Kingston, Ontario conducted the study *Causes of death among people in custody in Ontario, 1990 – 1999.* (9) Researchers were provided with access to prison records in order to study causes of death related to various health issues. Although racial origin is not identified in the study, it describes the methodology used and the permissions required to access the records and information.

### **Conclusion**

This report has only begun the work of compiling a complete list of names of Aboriginal persons who died in custody or who were injured or shot in police incidents. The list of deaths included in this report was compiled from a wide variety of sources and is not all-inclusive. As incidents and names are identified it is possible to track and confirm names and request coroner's inquests where these are available.

There appears to be no systematic compilation of information about Aboriginal deaths in custody or shot/injured by police.

- Agencies vary widely in their policy/practice on identification of racial origin of persons who died in incidents with police involvement.
- Not all contacts were forthcoming with information; some contacts are still gathering information and other potential contacts are yet to be made.
- The statistics are somewhat "soft;" Corrections Services Canada for example cautions their figures are not verified.

## End Notes

### Tab 1

- 1) Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Adult Correctional Services in Canada 2000-2001*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- 2) Kiyoshk, Robert.(May 2001) Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities.
- 3) Cler Cunningham, Leonard and Lee, Jason.(2003, February 3) *Justice, lies and videotape* Vancouver Courier.
- 4) Cariboo-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry (1993) Report of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry, Victoria: Attorney General of British Columbia.
- 5) *Adult Correctional Services in Canada*.

### See Vol II

- 6) Documents/ List of Aboriginal People injured by police or who died in police custody  
**British Columbia**
  - a) **Fred Quilt**  
Globe and Mail July 21, 1972
  - b) **Frank Bell:**  
Cler Cunningham, Leonard and Lee, Jason.(2003, February 3) *Justice, lies and videotape* Vancouver Courier.
  - c) **Frank Paul:**  
Coroners Inquest, November 8, 1999;  
Turtle Island Native Network. (June 26,2003) Spotlight on Justice for  
Aboriginals: The Death of Frank Paul. [August 20, 2003]
  - d) **Anthony Dawson:**  
Coroners Inquest, December 1, 2000  
Police Act Review and Investigation into the death of Anthony Dawson
  - e) **Paul Alphonse:**  
Coroners Inquest March 8, 2002
  - f) **Lawrence Pascal:** Letter from Chief Allen Stager to Sergeant Greg  
Browning, April 25, 2001.
  - g) **Richard Allen**  
Coroners Inquest, May 15, 2003
  - h) **Peter Prince**  
Coroners Inquest, November 27, 2002
  - i) **Darrell Paquette:**  
CBC News online(July 22,2003) Man dies following arrest[August 26,2003]  
CBC News online. (July 24,2003)Death after mall disturbance not the  
first.[August 26, 2003]

Turtle Island Native Network.(July 23, 2003) Family of Metis man who died in police custody want answers.[August 26,2003]

- j) **Clayton Alvin Willey** – see (h)  
Sun news services. *Family wants stun-gun ban*. Vancouver Sun July 31, 2003.
  - k) **Lorraine Jacobson:**  
Resist.ca.(March 6, 2003) Alert Bay community confronts police over shooting death.[September 9,2003]
  - l) Submission by the Pivot Legal Society of complaints regarding the policing practices of the Vancouver Police Department in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. June 9, 2003.
  - m) **telquaa(husband)**  
Turtle Island Native News.(October 18,2002) Post subject: No Justice, No Peace. [August 8, 25,2003]  
Alberta  
Saskatchewan  
Manitoba  
Saskatchewan
- 7) Materials on Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Australia, 1991.
- 8) Canadian Association of Police Chiefs. *LEAD Backgrounder: Law Enforcement Aboriginal and Diversity Network (LEAD)*.
- 9) Wobeser, Datema, Bechard, Ford, (2002 November 12) *Causes of death among people in custody in Ontario, 1990-1999*. Kingston: Department of Medicine, Queen’s University.