Verdict of Coroner’s Jury
Office of the Chief Coroner
The Coroners Act – Province of Ontario

Surname: Blackbird
Given names: Kendra
Aged: 34

Held at: Windsor
From the: 11th day of August 2014
To the: 15th day of August 2014
By: Dr. Curtis Fedoruk, Coroner for Ontario
having been duly sworn/affirmed, have inquired into and determined the following:

Name of Deceased: Kendra Blackbird
Date and Time of Death: Oct. 1, 2012 0320 hrs
Place of Death: Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital (Windsor Regional Hospital)
Cause of Death: Possible synergistic drug overdose complicated by pneumonia.
By what means: Accidental

This verdict was received on the 15th day of August, 2014
Coroner’s Name: Dr. Curtis Fedoruk
(original signed by Coroner)

We, the jury, wish to make the following recommendations:

Inquest into the death of:
Kendra Blackbird
Jury Recommendations
To the Southwest Detention Centre:

Recommendation #1
Ensure that the intermittent sentenced inmates are not housed with general population inmates.

Recommendation #2
To ensure compliance with the policy, medical staff when conducting medication rounds shall receive a clear verbal refusal of medicine.

Recommendation #3
Conduct refresher training for operational staff and medical staff regarding the management and supervision of medical conditions including drug dependencies and the symptoms of drug overdose and emergency interventions (e.g. Narcan).

Recommendation #4
Ensure proper communication between the operational staff and medical staff regarding the symptoms of drug overdose.

Recommendation #5
To facilitate and implement Native-specific programming for Indigenous inmates.

Recommendation #6
Contact the Native Inmate Liaison Officer (NILO) or their designate anytime there is a critical incident involving an Indigenous inmate.

To the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services:

Recommendation #7
To revise the current policy to prohibit the release from the property of the inmate any prescription medication to anyone other than the individual who is named on the prescription.

Recommendation #8
To continue to explore and implement emerging techniques and technologies for the detection of contraband within correctional facilities.

Recommendation #9
To create and implement a separate policy to manage drug overdose.

Recommendation #10
To continue to work towards the development of a pain management strategy in the correctional environment.

Recommendation #11
Training and awareness of inmate pain management for all medical staff.

Recommendation #12
Investigate alternatives to the current practice of accepting "immigration holds" placed into Provincial facilities.

Recommendation #13
To investigate the possible initiation of Suboxone and Methadone treatment programs within correctional facilities including the Southwest Detention Centre.
Recommendation #14
Consider the use of drug detection dogs around inmates in order to detect drugs on the inmates.

Recommendation #15
Programs be made available to all inmates regardless of their length of stay.