



France Gélinas

La députée de Nickel Belt | MPP for Nickel Belt

October 28, 2020

Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr,
720 Bay St, Toronto, ON
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OPEN LETTER

Minister Downey,

On November 1 2020, it will be two years since your Ministry received the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury Inquest into the deaths of Matthew Robert Humeniuk, Michael Isaac Kritz, Stephanie Joelle Bertrand and Kathryn Missen. Three of these deaths were the result of a tragic incident on Lake Wahnapiatae in my riding of Nickel Belt on June 30, 2013. After that incident, the families of the victims spent years of their lives working to get answers about what occurred that night. The culmination of their efforts was this coroner inquest.

Minister to ensure that these efforts were not in vain, I am writing to you today for an update as to how your ministry has worked to address the 19 recommendations from the Coroner's Jury. Recommendation 18 states: "Ontario should: Report to the Office of the Chief Coroner by no later than December 1, 2019, and annually for five years, in an open letter, regarding the progress made with respect to these recommendations."

Attorney General Downey I hope that your Ministry will respect the families of the victims and the jury's recommendations. We have seen positives changes in our province since the recommendations were made; such as the investment last year in the safety radio network.

Fulfilling recommendation 18, sending the coroner an open letter, would send a clear message to Ontarians that the government is actively working to keep citizens in northern and rural areas safe.

There are still many open wounds in my community from that deadly night. Reading about the positives changes made so far, in an open letter to the Coroner, would help many of my constituents heal. I look forward to reading your update letter to the coroner on December 1 2020.

Let me know if I can be helpful

France Gélinas
MPP / députée
Nickel Belt