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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble
Nunavut

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MINISTA MALIGALIQIYIKUNUT
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
MINISTERE DE LA JUSTICE

Elaine Keenan Bengts
Nunavut Information and Privacy Commissioner
5018 47th Street
P.O. Box 382
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N3

[redacted]

Request 1029-20-JUS0103

Information and Privacy Commissioner File: 15-130-5

Review Recommendation 15-093

Dear Commissioner:

I sincerely appreciate your deliberations on this matter and would like to respond to the recommendations you made in Review Recommendation 15-093:

Recommendation 1:

I recommend that the Verdicts of the Coroner's Jury in each of the cases identified by the department as falling within the scope of the Applicant's request be disclosed without any redactions.

Response:

The Department of Justice believes that this is a fair recommendation and has attached hereto the un-severed documents as recommended for the applicant. All associated fees from the applicant have also been waived in consideration of the amount of time that has passed since the original request was made to the department.

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MINISTA MALIGALIQIYIKUNUT
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
MINISTERE DE LA JUSTICE

Recommendation 2:

I further recommend, however, that the Coroner's Office undertake a thorough review of their policies and procedures with a view to ensuring that those policies comply with privacy provisions of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Whether or not the Act gives the Coroner's Office the authority to report publicly on matters which come before it, I do not believe that, as drafted, the Coroner's Act supercedes the privacy protections in the ATIPPA. In light of the purposes of the Coroner's Act, it may be appropriate, in light of the issues raised by this case, to consider amendments to that act which would specifically allow the disclosure of personal information in certain, defined circumstances notwithstanding the privacy protections afforded by the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Response:

I will direct staff to review the *Coroner's Act* and associated policies in light of your recommendations; the department appreciates the need to balance both the rights of Nunavummiut under *the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* with necessary disclosure of information from the Coroner's Office.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact the Department of Justice's ATIPP Coordinator, Mark Witzaney, by e-mail at MWitzaney@gov.nu.ca or by phone at (867) 975-6346

Sincerely,

Paul Okalik

Minister of Justice

cc Elizabeth Sanderson, Deputy Minister of Justice