

BC Coroners Service: An Introduction to our work, mandate and partnership with the FNHA



FNHA REGIONAL CAUCUS

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A brief history of the Coroner

ROOTS of CORONIAL SYSTEM: Common Law in ENGLAND

Coroners were called CROWNERS because they were a representative of the CROWN or of the KING.

Coroner responsibilities: recording births, collecting taxes and attending and recording deaths.

The investigation of deaths was seen as a lucrative opportunity to raise money for the Crown.

When someone died, the Coroner would be called out and if he determined that someone had died by their own hands (suicide) the Coroner would seize all of that person's assets which now became property of the KING. They would confiscate the property of felons/rebels where able. Today, the role of the Coroner has greatly evolved, but the one thing we still have in common with our roots is that we are responsible for investigating sudden death.



Present Day (Intro to the BC Coroners Service)



MANDATE

The BC Coroners Service is committed to conducting a thorough, independent examination of the factors contributing to death in order to improve community safety and quality of life in the Province of British Columbia.

ORGANIZATION

Structure (HQ)

Regions/Units/Service Delivery

CORONERS ACT

ROLE OF THE CORONER



- The Coroner is an independent investigator-clarifies the circumstances of all sudden, unexpected and unnatural deaths for the public record.
- We are not fault finders, instead we focus only on finding fact.
- The Coroner's role is independent – by eliciting the facts we serve the deceased, his/her family, community and broader societal interests.
- The Coroner makes recommendations to prevent future loss of life.

ROLE OF THE CORONER

- The Coroner is responsible for determining the facts surrounding a death:
- The identity of the deceased
- How, when, where and by what means the deceased died.
- Classification



Practicalities of the Coroner job....



What you can expect from the Coroner?

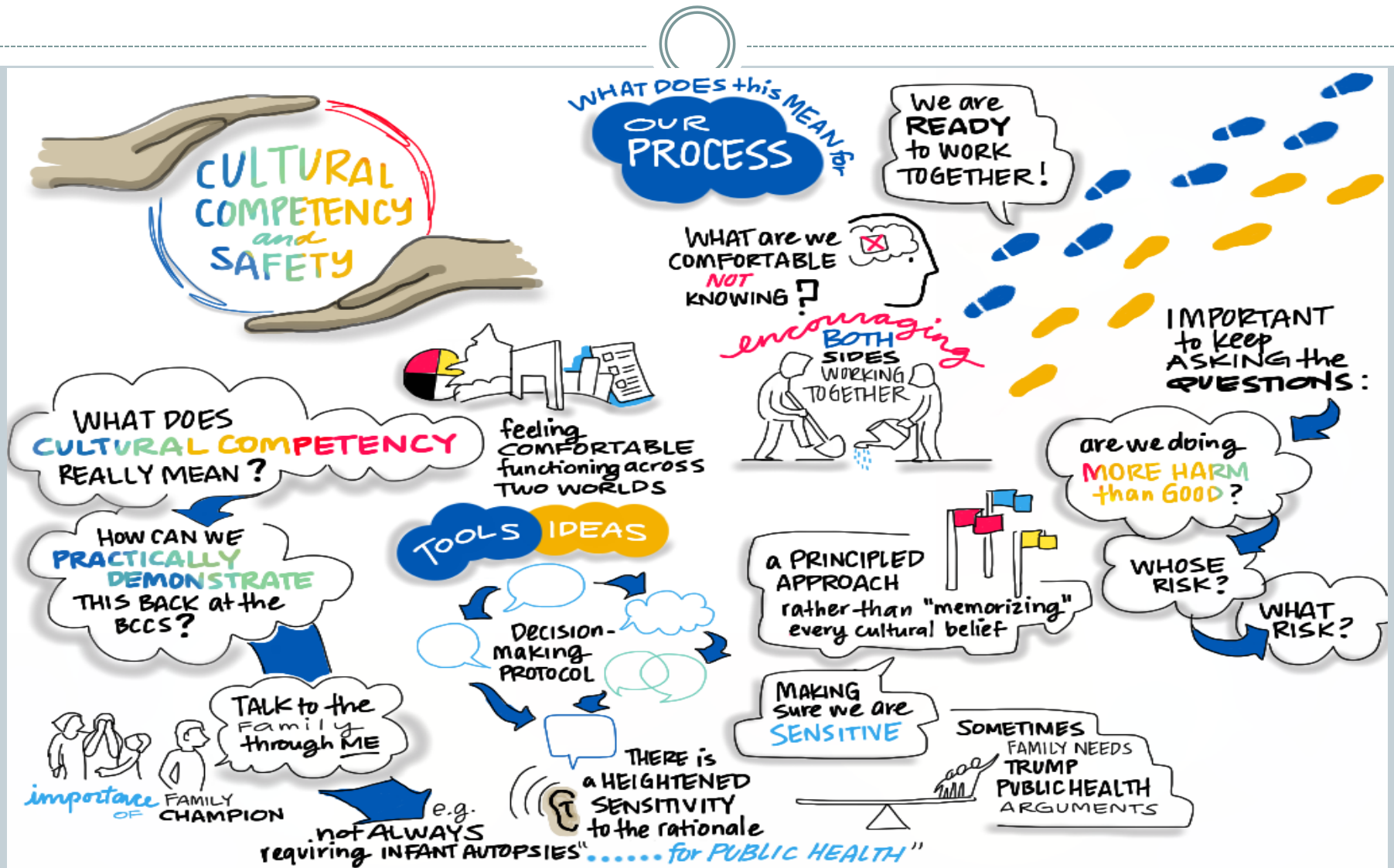
- The Coroner will view & physically examine the body
- The Coroner may take possession of the body and transfer it to a nearby medical facility/morgue.
- The Coroner may authorize post mortem examinations.
- The Coroner will always endeavour to keep family members fully informed on the progress of their investigation.

Practicalities of the Coroner job....



- The Coroner WILL RESPECT customary and religious death protocols whenever and wherever possible.
- Coroners role to help answer questions related to cause and manner of death for you and the broader community in the hopes of preventing future death in similar circumstances
- Our goal is to understand the needs of families and this requires that we gain an understanding of the unique customs and religious practices of all British Columbians.

Cultural Competency/Sensitivity



MOU: BCCS/FNHA SHARED INTERESTS



- Work together to improve First Nations public safety and the prevention of First Nation's deaths; including (Refer to Graphic):
 - ✦ Data surveillance for Aboriginal and First Nations people
 - ✦ BCCS practices, and policies
 - ✦ Inter-organization relationship building between FNHA and BCCS
 - ✦ Cultural competency and cultural safe services
 - ✦ Strengthening relationships with First Nations communities, families and individuals that respects the community-driven and nation-based decision making of First Nations
- Develop and implement a yearly Work Plan with timelines, deliverables and success indicators that identifies priorities from

BCCS/FNHA Sharing & Visioning

