

February 20, 2018

Nicole Goehring, MLA  
Chair, Standing Committee  
on Families and Communities  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 9820 – 107 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7

Dear Nicole Goehring:

**Re: Meeting with Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 2018 inviting me or a representative from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to attend a Committee meeting on February 21, 2018 or February 22, 2018 with respect to its review of the *Missing Persons Act*.

The OCME does not have a presentation to make to the Committee at the meeting. The OCME does, however, have general considerations it would like to present regarding possible changes to the Act.

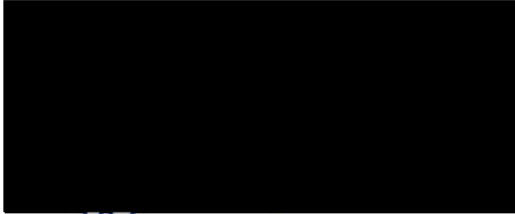
The OCME would like to bring to the Committee's attention that any changes to the Act that will benefit police forces in being able to acquire timely, detailed and comprehensive information on a missing person can greatly assist the legislated duties of the OCME in identifying decedents should the missing person be found to be deceased within the province under sudden, unexpected or suspicious circumstances (whence they would be investigated by the OCME under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*).

When the OCME is faced with investigating an unidentified decedent we work closely with the police agency in the region where the body was found and also with the RCMP if required, to synchronize our data sharing in a joint effort to identify the decedent and potentially help to solve an ongoing "missing person file" with that police agency. For example if police already had dental records and other pertinent information about the individual, the OCME could very swiftly in a matter of hours to days, identify a decedent thereby allowing the families of these individuals to gain closure and for the police and OCME investigations to move forwards.

The finding of unidentified remains of a decedent can often garner much attention as circumstances may be publicly shared in an attempt to locate the individual and the circumstances are often highly tragic. Enabling the police to quickly gather crucial

information about missing person will place the OCME in a position to effectively and quickly correlate this information with the unidentified remains. This way the OCME and police can answer questions that both the family and public deserve a timely answer to.

Sincerely,



Dr. Elizabeth Brooks-Lim M.B.ChB., F.R.C.Path., M.F.F.L.M., M.C.S.F.S.  
Chief Medical Examiner  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner