

FATALITY INQUIRY TO BE HELD IN GUYSBOROUGH, N.S.

Thursday, May 24, 2018 (Halifax, NS) – The fatality inquiry into the deaths of Lionel Desmond and his family will be held in the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, close to the community where the tragedy occurred.

On Jan. 3, 2017, the bodies of Mr. Desmond, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, his wife, Shanna, their 10-year-old daughter, Aaliyah, and Mr. Desmond's mother, Brenda, were found in a house in Upper Big Tracadie, Guysborough County. It was later determined that Mr. Desmond took the lives of his family members, before he took his own.

Dr. Matt Bowes, Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Examiner, reviewed the case. Following his review, Dr. Bowes recommended an inquiry under Sec. 26 of Nova Scotia's [Fatality Investigations Act](#). Nova Scotia's Minister of Justice agreed and drafted the attached terms of reference outlining the scope for the inquiry.

The proceedings will take place in the Guysborough Municipal Building at 33 Pleasant St., Guysborough, N.S. Among other things, the building was previously used as a satellite courthouse, making it easy to adapt for legal proceedings.

Considering travel and the wide public interest in this matter, it is possible the inquiry proceedings will be livestreamed online. This will need to be approved by the presiding judge.

The next step in the inquiry process will be the announcement of a Provincial Court judge and designated Crown counsel to conduct the inquiry. That announcement is expected in the coming weeks.

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