

PART 1—OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

C. Summary of Recommendations

HOMELESS CHRONIC ALCOHOLICS

- 1. I recommend that the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, the provincial Ministry of Housing and Social Development, and the Aboriginal community jointly develop a comprehensive response to the needs of homeless chronic alcoholics within the city of Vancouver. This would include (but not be limited to) the following components:**
 - a civilian-operated program for attending to chronic alcoholics who are incapacitated in a public place,**
 - a civilian-operated sobering centre,**
 - an enhanced civilian-based detoxification program,**
 - the provision of permanent low-barrier housing designed for the specific needs of chronic alcoholics, which would offer (if needed) palatable alcohol substitution and managed alcohol programs, and**
 - the provision of community-based, multidisciplinary assertive community treatment services.**
- 2. I recommend that the Lieutenant Governor in Council appoint a highly respected third party, knowledgeable about the issues but independent of any of the interests involved, to assume an overall leadership role in the development of the response.**
- 3. I recommend that the provincial Ombudsman—if the Ombudsman is agreeable—monitor progress of the comprehensive response for a three-year period and on an annual basis make a special report to the Legislature and comment publicly on progress made on this initiative.**

THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF POLICE-RELATED DEATHS

- 4. I recommend that British Columbia develop a civilian-based criminal investigation model for the investigation of police-related deaths occurring in the municipalities policed by the 11 municipal police departments.**
- 5. I recommend that the initial mandate of this organization (which I suggest be named the Independent Investigation Office (IIO)) include a wide variety of factual circumstances, including (but not limited to) a death in a police department jail cell, a death resulting from an officer's use of force or a motor vehicle, or a death arising from some other form of police interaction with the deceased.**
- 6. I recommend that the IIO be accountable to the Ministry of Attorney General.**
- 7. I recommend that the IIO be led by a director appointed by Order in Council for a fixed term of five or six years.**
- 8. To ensure the IIO's unquestioned authority to act, I recommend that its essential powers be entrenched in legislation, such as:**
 - the IIO director and investigators have the status of peace officers,**
 - the chief constable of the jurisdiction in which a police-related death occurs must immediately advise the IIO of the incident,**
 - pending arrival of the IIO at the incident scene, the chief constable must ensure that the scene is secured and that officers involved in the incident are segregated from each other,**
 - officers involved in the incident must not communicate with each other about the incident, except as authorized by the IIO,**
 - the IIO becomes the lead investigative agency, and the home police department has no investigative responsibility or authority, except as granted by IIO,**

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- **a witness officer must promptly make himself or herself available for an interview with the IIO investigator, and must promptly deliver to the IIO all notes, reports and other investigative materials relevant to the incident, and**
 - **a respondent officer may be—but is not compelled to be—interviewed by the IIO, and must in all cases promptly deliver to the IIO all notes, reports and other investigative materials relevant to the incident.**
- 9. I recommend that the director recommends to the Criminal Justice Branch whether criminal charges should be laid, and if so, which charges, involving which officer or officers.**
 - 10. I recommend that the provincial Ombudsman have jurisdiction over the IIO.**

THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS INVESTIGATIONS OF POLICE-RELATED DEATHS

- 11. I recommend that the statutory mandate of the Police Complaint Commissioner be extended to include the requirement that the commissioner conduct professional standards investigations of all police-related deaths arising in those British Columbia jurisdictions policed by municipal police departments.**
- 12. I recommend that Recommendations 29–34 of Mr. Wood’s 2007 Report be implemented.**

