

Scope of the Inquest into the Deaths of Carol Culleton,
Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam

"I have a daughter myself, and it would be reassuring to think that any systemic problems can be addressed so she will have a safer world to live in. This can happen to any woman and there is more the justice system and communities can do to keep women safe."

Zou Zou Kuzyk,
Sister of Anastasia Kuzyk

On September 22, 2015, Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam, were killed on their properties in Renfrew County by a man with a known history of violence against women. This Inquest will explore the circumstances of their deaths with a focus on the dynamics of gender-based, intimate partner violence and femicide in rural communities. The Inquest jury will be asked to consider recommendations directed at preventing future deaths and protecting victims of intimate partner violence in rural communities.

In addition to understanding the circumstances of the deaths of Ms. Culleton, Ms. Kuzyk, and Ms. Warmerdam, the Inquest will consider several important public policy issues, including:

1. The risk factors for intimate partner violence and femicide in rural communities.
2. Challenges that victims face reporting violence and accessing protective and supportive services.
3. The role of firearms in rural femicides and the perpetrator's access to firearms in this case.
4. The perpetrator's history of violence, previous interactions with the justice system, risk factors, signs of escalating risk, and missed intervention opportunities.
5. Police and justice system policies and practices relevant to intimate partner violence generally and specifically to the victims and perpetrator in this case.
6. Barriers to safety planning including connectivity for electronic monitoring, notifications to victims when a perpetrator is at large, protocols for first responders, enforcing protective orders, and self-protection efforts by victims.
7. Community awareness and attitudes about intimate partner violence and femicide. The resources and tools communities need to prioritize victims' safety and respond effectively to escalating offenders.

8. Alternatives to traditional criminal justice responses to intimate partner violence including restorative justice and public health models and well as wrap-around services for victims in crisis.

The Inquest will be open to the public. The issues before the Inquest arise specifically from the circumstances associated with the deaths of the victims. Family, friends, members of the community, law enforcement, service providers and other individuals with an understanding of the underlying causes of intimate partner violence and femicide in rural communities, will be invited to share their knowledge and experience.