



April 17, 2023

Dr. Julie Erbland
Manager, Child and Youth Death Review Analysis
Ministry of the Solicitor General
Office of the Chief Coroner – Ontario Forensic Pathology Service
Forensic Services and Coroners Complex
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto ON M3M 0B1

Re: Recommendations from the Expert Review Concerning the Death of a Child – [OCC File No. 2020-2267]

Dear Dr. Erbland,

The Ontario College of Teachers is deeply committed to serving and protecting the public interest by ensuring that certified members of the College are competent, qualified and caring professionals who put their students' wellbeing at the forefront of everything they do. And so it is with profound sadness that we received Dr. Kim Snow's expert report concerning the death of a child under 5 years of age.

Two of the 16 recommendations in Dr. Snow's report, issued in September 2022, are made to the Ontario College of Teachers and three other regulators.¹

We are writing to outline the actions the College will take to address recommendations 12 and 13, as requested in the Chief Coroner's letter, dated October 17, 2022.

Starting in April 2023, we will begin a year-long campaign to promote our [Duty to Report Professional Advisory](#), which informs professional judgment and practice among new applicants and the College's approximately 230,000 Ontario Certified Teachers (OCTs).

We will also provide the Professional Advisory to both applicants and OCTs to remind them of their professional obligations to report to a Children's Aid Society about any suspicions that a child may be in need of protection.

The advisory and reminders about the duty to report will be shared via our social media platforms and the College's official publication *Your College and You*, our monthly digital newsletter for members and applicants.

Additionally, we will share the Professional Advisory and the steps the College is taking with the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (representing CEOs from Ontario's 72 school boards, including public, Catholic, and French language) and discuss how to best align the College's and boards' responsibilities to support due diligence in reporting actual or suspected cases, staff training and other procedures to address child neglect and abuse.

We will do the same with both the Ontario Association of Deans of Education (representing faculties and schools of education in Ontario's publicly funded universities) and the Independent Ontario Deans and Directors of Education and initiate dialogue on what the faculties of education are teaching teacher candidates about duty to report and their obligations under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*.

In addition, the College's Accreditation Resource Guide and accreditation application templates will be updated to make explicit reference to the College's *Duty to Report Professional Advisory*. These will be shared and promoted with initial teacher education program directors at individual accreditation renewal and initial accreditation launch meetings. These efforts will serve to highlight the importance of duty to report obligations with teacher candidates entering the profession.

We appreciate the opportunity to outline our next steps regarding Dr. Snow's expert report. Please do not hesitate to reach out, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Linda Lacroix, OCT/EAO
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer /
Registraire et chef de la direction

cc : Dr. Dirk Huyer, M.D., Chief Coroner for Ontario

ⁱ College of Psychologists of Ontario; Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers; College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario

October 17, 2022

Chantal Belisle
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer
Ontario College of Teachers

Re: Recommendations from the Expert Review Concerning the Death of a Child – [OCC File No. 2020-2267]

Dear Chantal Belisle,

The Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) investigates deaths to determine the circumstances of death and, when indicated, provides recommendations to inform efforts to reduce further deaths. The Child and Youth Death Review and Analysis (CYDRA) unit at the OCC directly supports the development of effective recommendations for the prevention of further deaths of young persons in Ontario.

The goal of child and youth death review is to provide service-level, systemic, and structural recommendations aimed to prevent deaths, and to contribute to public safety and health by supporting recommendations that enhance the overall well-being of children, youth, their families, and communities.

Where CYDRA identifies a death of concern, there are different forms of death investigation (e.g. Local Death Review Table, Pediatric Death Review Committee for Children and Youth). At times, a decision may be made to request a review by a person with expertise relevant to the specific issues identified during a death investigation.

Dr. Kim Snow, an expert in children's services completed the attached review which outlines the findings and recommendations in relation to the unfortunate death of a young child. Recommendations specific to your organization and expectations regarding a response are outlined below.

For the item(s) relating to the Ontario College of Teachers, please see recommendation(s):

- 12 and 13

We request that you respond to the respective recommendation(s) within six months, i.e., by **April 17, 2023**, and that you provide the approach that will be taken to address each of the

recommendations directed to your organization. Please be advised that your response will be considered a public document and may be released to interested parties upon request.

Although the recommendations made in this expert review report are not legally binding, we trust that they will be given due consideration for implementation and that your organization will provide an explanation otherwise.

Please direct your response(s) to:

Dr. Julie Erbland, Manager, Child and Youth Death Review Analysis
Julie.Erbland@ontario.ca

Thank you in advance for your support in this important process. Please contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Huyer', is positioned above the printed name.

Dirk Huyer M.D.
Chief Coroner for Ontario