

## British Columbia Coroners Service

As at February 8, 2013      Released: [12 July 2011](#)  
 First Follow-up: [October 2012](#)  
 Discussed by the Public Accounts Committee: [2 November 2011](#)

### Self-assessment conducted by the BC Coroners Service

“The Coroners Service is committed to enhancing public safety through independent and thorough investigations, comprehensive reports and safety advisories, expert death reviews, and public inquests. By providing detailed statistical information about the factors leading to deaths of British Columbians to other agencies, programs and ministries of government, the Coroners Service informs policy, programs and legislation in support of public safety. The Coroners Service supports the public’s confidence in its institutions by ensuring that unexpected deaths are thoroughly and objectively investigated with all relevant facts and recommendations reported. We are committed to continuing to improve on our investigations, inquests and death reviews to ensure the Coroners Service maintains the public’s trust in its findings.”

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED IN PREVIOUS FOLLOW-UP REPORT:	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
<b>Recommendation 1:</b> The BC Coroners Service develop a strategic plan, endorsed by ministry executive, that defines the service’s role in preventing deaths and supporting public safety and includes strategies for fulfilling that role.	Fully or substantially implemented
<b>Recommendation 2:</b> The BC Coroners Service develop a communications strategy as a component of its strategic plan.	Fully or substantially implemented
<b>Recommendation 5:</b> The Chief Coroner and Ministry executive confirm and document the authority and operational independence of the BC Coroners Service, review this agreement annually, and report to the minister any potential risks to operational independence.	Fully or substantially implemented

RECOMMENDATION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> The BC Coroners Service prepare, and make public, an annual service plan and an annual report that follow the BC Reporting Principles.</p> <p><b>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned:</b></p> <p>“The recently released Coroners Service 2010 Annual Report substantially follows BC Reporting Principles. At this time, the Service does not publish its own annual service plan but provides its information in the Ministry of Justice Service Plan.”</p>	Partially implemented
<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> The BC Coroners Service include performance targets for the timeliness of investigations and reviews in its service plan and then report on actual performance in its annual report.</p> <p><b>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned:</b></p> <p>“The recently released 2010 Annual Report reports on timeliness performance and sets targets for upcoming years. Future reports will also include reporting and targets for reviews.”</p>	Fully or substantially implemented

All information has been provided by the organization and has not been audited.

**Recommendation 6:** The BC Coroners Service include in its strategic plan strategies for maintaining and developing the coroner expertise required to meet the service’s mandate. Partially implemented

**Actions taken, results and/or actions planned:**

“The BCCS Strategic Plan confirms the importance of maintaining and developing coroner expertise. A staff position dedicated to overseeing strategies for training and development is being developed. It is expected that a training coordinator will be in place within the next few months.”

**Recommendation 7:** The BC Coroners Service review the community coroner staffing model and explore options that can better support the long-term effectiveness of the BC Coroners Service. Fully or substantially implemented

**Actions taken, results and/or actions planned:**

“A new service delivery model developed to better support the long-term effectiveness of the Coroners Service is being implemented in identified areas of the province. This model clarifies responsibilities and the requisite training. The model maintains as and when required coroners in communities across the province to attend scenes of death and represent local issues. Full time investigative coroners with the necessary training and experience will then complete the investigations and reports. Positive impacts on timeliness, quality and consistency of investigations and reports are anticipated.”

**Recommendation 8:** The BC Coroners Service include in its strategic plan strategies for using data and trend analysis to identify risks to public safety, inform activities to improve public safety, and measure the impact of recommendations. Partially implemented

**Actions taken, results and/or actions planned:**

“Monitoring of mortality trends and patterns in deaths reported to BCCS is continuing and results are being publicly reported. An analysis of recommendation implementation has been completed and further analysis focused on measuring impact of recommendations is planned.”