

# Grozelle Family Briefing

## CFNIS/OPP

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Delta London Armouries Hotel  
London, Ontario.



## Police Representatives

- Major Francis Bolduc, DCO CFNIS
- Insp. John MacDonald, CFNIS MCA
- Insp. Ian Grant, OPP CIB
- D/S/Sgt. Tracy Dobbin, OPP CIB



## CF Family Support Group

- LCol Freeman Chute, Director CF Casualty Support Management Group, Ottawa.



## BACKGROUND :

- 22 Oct 03, OCdt Joseph Grozelle, a student at RMC, was reported missing. A CFNIS missing person investigation was started.
- On 13 Nov 03, OCdt Grozelle's body was discovered in the Cataraqui River. A Coroner's investigation was initiated while the CFNIS maintained the lead on the police investigation.
- On 17 Mar 04, at the Coroner's request, the responsibility for the death investigation was given to the OPP. To date, neither the Coroner's Inquest nor the police investigations by the CFNIS or OPP have been able to determine the cause, manner, or time of death.



## Timeline

- 22 Oct 03: OCdt Grozelle was reported missing.
- 13 Nov 03: OCdt Grozelle's body discovered in the Cataragui River.
- 13 Nov 03: First autopsy was conducted.
- 25 Nov 04: OCdt Grozelle's body exhumed for a second autopsy.
- August 2007: OPP investigation is concluded.



## Timeline

- 16 Oct 06: 1<sup>st</sup> Inquest.
- 9 Mar 07: 2d inquest began - concluded with no new information regarding circumstances surrounding OCdt Grozelle's death.
- 6 Nov 07: CFNIS requested assistance of RCMP, Office of Investigative Standards and Practices (OISP) to conduct an investigative file assessment, to determine how the investigation was managed by the CFNIS under the nine principles of Major Case Management as well as to identify any additional investigative actions that may enhance the overall investigation.



## Timeline

- 8 Jan 08: VCDS convened a BOI.
- 22 Nov 08: All CFNIS documentation forwarded to the RCMP in an electronic format including all the transcripts of all the interviews conducted by the CFNIS.
- 16 Oct 09: BOI letter to the CFPM – Recommendation for further investigation.
- 18 Nov 09: BOI briefing to the police. Follow-up with a OPP/CFNIS/OISP meeting to discuss the BOI recommendations.



## Timeline

- 23 Mar 10: BOI document on which the BOI based its recommendation for further investigation forward to the CFNIS as per discussions during 18 Nov 09 briefing.
- 13-14 Aug 10: Mr Grozelle was formally briefed by the BOI members on their findings.
- 5 Oct 10: CFNIS received the interim report from the OISP (RCMP). To date they have identified 34 investigative points that require review and consideration for further action.



## Timeline

- 5 Oct 10: CFNIS forwarded the interim report to the OPP in order to assess the review and meet with the CFNIS to determine the investigation way ahead as the OPP remains the police force of jurisdiction to conduct further inquiries.
- 9 Nov 10: CFNIS/OPP meeting to consider 34 recommendations.



## Ontario Coroners Act Inquest

- 19 MAR 07 to 26 APR 07.
- Cause of death “unascertained”, “non natural causes by means undetermined”.
- 10 recommendations related to inter agency cooperation/protocols to clarify roles and responsibilities for death cases.



## DND Board of Inquiry

- BOI convened 8 JAN 08 to 9 OCT 09.
- BOI concluded the cause of death as “unascertained”.
- BOI concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support a specific cause of death ie accident, suicide, natural causes and or other causes.



## RCMP Office of Investigative Standards Practices (OISP)

- November 2007 CO CFNIS requested a review by RCMP OISP.
- Independent file review designed to make recommendations in relation to file management & ID any potential avenues of investigation.
- Also included material from KPS, OPP Coroners office and BOI.



## OISP

- 23 MAR 11 OISP final report received by CO CFNIS.
- 34 recommendations for follow up (addressed).
- 8 MCM recommendations
- No new information was surfaced to advance the Grozelle investigation.
- No evidence of criminality.



## Issue

- To date, despite the combined efforts of the police services, the coroner's office and the BOI, no one has been able to determine the cause, manner, or time of death. The OISP's recommendations were *individually addressed* in consultation with the OPP Lead Investigator and his 2 i/c.
- A plan was developed to follow up on several of the recommendations and those matters were jointly addressed by the CFNIS and the OPP. *No new information* was surfaced to advance the Grozelle investigation.



## Issue

- Despite the combined efforts of the police services involved, the Coroner's office and the BOI, the *cause, manner, and time of death* remain *unascertained*.
- *No evidence of criminality or foul play.*



## Conclusions

- It is the prevailing opinion of all agencies involved in the disappearance and death of OCdt Grozelle that there is *no evidence of criminality* and that *the cause of his death is undetermined*.
- The investigation remains under the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office of Ontario who has concluded their involvement with the file subject to any new information/evidence surfacing.





## Conclusion

- The CFNIS has no plans to initiate any new investigative activities unless/until new information becomes available. Should that opportunity present itself, any new information will be assessed in consultation with the OPP and the Coroner's Office of Ontario.
- The CFNIS investigation is *concluded*.

