

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

CLIFF # 234564

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy - **FOR INFORMATION**

TITLE: Minister Briefing on the public release of *Critical Injuries and Death (CID) Update #30 - Report from the Representative for Children and Youth Regarding Reviews and Investigations of Critical Injuries and Deaths*.

PURPOSE: To summarize the report that is expected to be released October 23, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

- One of the functions of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) is conducting reviews and investigations of critical injuries and deaths of children and youth who have received “reviewable services” in order to make recommendations to help prevent similar injuries or deaths in the future and to inform improvements to services.
- Reviewable services as defined by the RCY Act include:
 - Services or programs under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (including, but not limited to children in care) and *Youth Justice Act*;
 - mental health services for children;
 - early childhood development and child care services;
 - adoption services; and,
 - addiction services for children.
- The RCY “reviews” cases by gathering preliminary file information about the event through the ministry’s Reportable Circumstance (RC) reports which are sent to the RCY, supplemented by additional file records to determine if an “investigation” should occur. Investigations result in public reports.
- The RCY reviews and investigates only a portion of the total number of critical injuries and deaths of children served by the ministry each year. The RCY applies its own criteria to decide which cases to review and investigate.
- Since 2007 and three times per year the RCY prepares public reports aggregating and analyzing information obtained through their reviews and investigations of critical injuries and deaths. These “CID Update” reports do not contain recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

- On October 23, 2017 the RCY is expected release its 30th CID Update since 2007.
- The reports states that in fiscal year 2016/17 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017), the RCY received a total of 2,124 reports of critical injuries and deaths of children. This includes children receiving reviewable services, including children in care.
- The reporting period for this report is February 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017. During this time period, the RCY reviewed and determined that 268 critical injuries and 39 deaths of children and youth receiving reviewable services met criteria for an RCY review. This figure represents a portion of all reportables received by the ministry in that same time period.

- The numbers of deaths and critical injuries the RCY reviewed this reporting period is similar to the same reporting period in 2016: 247 critical injuries and 37 deaths; (an increase of 21 and 2 respectively).
- Of the 39 deaths reviewed by the RCY, 8 are undergoing a Case Review by the Ministry according to policy.
- There has been an overall increase in the number of RC reports submitted in 2017 due to updated RC policy updated in 2015, training on that policy and the increased number of critical injuries related to the opioid crisis.
- The Ministry reports publically on the number of child deaths twice per year. This data is slightly different from the RCY's data. This is due to the following factors:
 - The RCY reports only on critical injuries and fatalities that meet the RCY's 'in-mandate' criteria for initial review.
 - RCY reports deaths and critical injuries by the date of the report rather than the date of the event which occasionally may be very different.
 - Occasionally the RCY will receive a report from the BC Coroner on a fatality that falls outside the Ministry's definition of an RC (e.g. child died at age 19 or more than 12 months after receiving services).
- The RCY and Office of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare will meet to review these differences in an effort to come to a mutual understanding of how CID reports are presented to the public in future releases.

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