

## Appeal for temporary morgue space in the BC Lower Mainland

The BC Coroners Service (BCCS) has been experiencing a chronic shortage of hospital morgue space in the Vancouver area over the past few months. With the recent surge in overdose deaths, the BCCS is now anticipating a more dire shortage of space over course of the next few weeks. While the Coroners Service is working on longer-term solutions, and is releasing decedents as quickly as the investigations will allow, any funeral homes in the Lower Mainland (Vancouver-Hope) area that can make available for the use of the Coroner temperature-controlled morgue space would be greatly appreciated.

To indicate availability, please email the following details to myself, [Aaron.Burns@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aaron.Burns@gov.bc.ca)

- Name of Funeral Home
- Contact phone number (for 24/7 availability if possible)
- Physical address of Funeral Home
- Number of berths/spaces that may be available for use by the coroner at a given time

The Coroners Service will pay a daily rental fee for use of morgue facilities.

Thank you in advance,

Aaron Burns  
Financial Analyst,  
BC Coroners Service

604-660-7705  
[Aaron.Burns@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aaron.Burns@gov.bc.ca)

**From:** Maple Ridge Funeral Chapel Ltd.  
**To:** [Burns, Aaron PSSG:EX](#)  
**Subject:** temporary morgue space  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 21, 2016 11:15:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.jpg](#)

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Hello Aaron,

My name is Sonia Rovatti and I'm a funeral director/embalmer with Maple Ridge Funeral Chapel & Crematorium. Renee Taylor is our manager but away on holidays. We would like to help out with a few morgue spaces but I need to speak to you regarding some details. Will you please call me at 604-463-8121 when you have a moment?

Thank you,

Sonia Rovatti

for

**Renee Taylor**



General Manager/Funeral Director

11969 - 216th Street

Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X5H9

Ph: 604-463-8121 Fx: 604-463-1923

Cell: 604-999-2553

[renee.mapleridgefuneralchapel@shaw.ca](mailto:renee.mapleridgefuneralchapel@shaw.ca)

[www.mapleridgefuneral.ca](http://www.mapleridgefuneral.ca)

**From:** Burns, Aaron PSSG:EX  
**To:** "Funeral, Cemetery & Cremation Professionals"  
**Subject:** BC Coroners Service : Body Storage (Vancouver and area)  
**Date:** Monday, December 19, 2016 12:57:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Vancouver temp body storage.pdf  
image001.jpg  
image002.png

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Hello again Janet,

I'm hopeful that you would be able to blast out the attached document by email to your Vancouver area members ASAP. We are in urgent need of temporary body storage owing to the public health emergency.

Thanks again for your help,

Aaron

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**From:** Funeral, Cemetery & Cremation Professionals [mailto:info@bcfunerals.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2012 3:29 PM  
**To:** Hoenisch, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: BC Coroners Service contracts  
Thanks Aaron.

Janet Ricciuti, Executive Director

British Columbia Funeral Associationsmall



Suite 211 - 2187 Oak Bay Avenue

Victoria, BC Canada V8R 1G1

Tel: (800) 665-3899 | Fax: (250) 592-4362

"Every Life Celebrated"

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**From:** Burns, Aaron JAG:EX [mailto:Aaron.Burns@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2012 2:22 PM  
**To:** 'info@bcfunerals.com'  
**Subject:** BC Coroners Service contracts  
Hello Janet,

I would appreciate it if you could pass on the following information to your members:

The BC Coroners Service issues contracts to providers outside of government to perform body removal and transportation to hospital morgues or local temporary body storage facilities as an important part of death investigations. Typically these outside providers are either funeral homes or dedicated body transfer companies. Many of our contracts will reach the end of their terms in the spring of 2013. A competitive selection process for many areas across the province will begin shortly, and solicitations should appear on the [www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca) website sometime late in January. Firms interested in learning more about these contracts can visit the conveyance contract section of the BC Coroners Service website at <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/conveyance/> for a listing of current and upcoming opportunities and more details.

It was pleasure speaking with you today.

Aaron

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**Aaron Burns**

Senior Financial Analyst

Corporate Management Services

Ministry of Justice <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/>

800-4720 Kingsway Ave, Burnaby BC, V5H 4N2

PH: 604-660-7705



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BC Coroners Service

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**From:** Burns, Aaron PSSG:EX  
**To:** "British Columbia Funeral Association"  
**Subject:** RE: BC Coroners Service : Body Storage (Vancouver and area)  
**Date:** Monday, December 19, 2016 1:16:00 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg  
image002.png

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That works—thanks very much Charlotte.

Aaron

**From:** British Columbia Funeral Association [mailto:info@bcfunerals.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 1:15 PM  
**To:** Burns, Aaron PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: BC Coroners Service : Body Storage (Vancouver and area)

Hi Aaron,

My name is Charlotte Poncelet and I have replaced Janet as the Executive Director for the BC Funeral Association. I am away from my office today but I will be able to stop by this evening and blast this out.

Let me know if that doesn't work in terms of timing for you.

Kind regards,

Charlotte Poncelet

Executive Director

BC Funeral Association

On Dec 19, 2016 12:57 PM, "Burns, Aaron PSSG:EX" <Aaron.Burns@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

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