

**From:** [Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX](#)  
**To:** [Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX](#); [England, Elizabeth EMBC:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2 fire deaths - Winter Hotel  
**Date:** April 23, 2022 08:04:00

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I will add these to the spreadsheet.

Sheldon

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**From:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <[Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** April 22, 2022 18:36  
**To:** England, Elizabeth EMBC:EX <[Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca)>; Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <[Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: 2 fire deaths - Winter Hotel

Liz,

Thank you for the article, very unfortunate situation.

Brian

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**From:** England, Elizabeth EMBC:EX <[Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2022 6:05:40 PM  
**To:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <[Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca)>; Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <[Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** 2 fire deaths - Winter Hotel

Just heard that they discovered another fatality at the Winter Hotel in Gastown.

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/body-found-in-debris-of-fire-ravaged-winter-hotel-in-gastown>

**Elizabeth (Liz) England | Fire Reporting Officer**

Office: 236 478 1185

Toll free (24 hours): 1 888 988-9488

[Office of the Fire Commissioner](#)

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX  
**To:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX; Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX  
**Cc:** Barrett, Lisa EMBC:EX; Turner, Jordan EMBC:EX; Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: For Review: BCH Media Requests: BCH: Winters Hotel  
**Date:** April 25, 2022 15:04:01

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Hi Brian and Sheldon, as discussed, a couple edits in red

### **Recommendation – BCH to provide background**

We have learned that two deceased individuals were discovered in the Winters Hotel during building demolition.

We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life. Our thoughts are with their loved ones, with the other former residents of the Winters Hotel, and with the frontline staff members and first responders who have worked hard to support all involved.

After the fire broke out, Atira, the housing operator, quickly provided the Vancouver Police Department with a list of residents in the building. Since then, Atira, BC Housing, and the City of Vancouver have been supporting the police in trying to confirm safety of residents over the past two weeks. It had been reported that the Winters Hotel was safely evacuated of all occupants during the fire, and we are disheartened to learn that this account was inaccurate.

s.13

We are working to ensure that appropriate supports, including counselling and consultation through disaster psychosocial support, are made available to other former Winters Hotel tenants during this difficult time.

s.13

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**From:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** April 25, 2022 2:43 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX <Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca>; Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Barrett, Lisa EMBC:EX <Lisa.Barrett@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Re: For Review: BCH Media Requests: BCH: Winters Hotel

Aimee,

I am in transit and will be at Keating just after 3:00.

I have included Sheldon on this email as there are some changes we should make including Vancouver Fire and the ongoing investigation.

Sheldon please review and give me a call and we can make the few changes/additions...

Thanks

Brian

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**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 2:39 PM

**To:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <[Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca)>; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX <[Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Barrett, Lisa EMBC:EX <[Lisa.Barrett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Barrett@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: For Review: BCH Media Requests: BCH: Winters Hotel

Sorry, I sent that too soon – Jordan said he is okay with these, so no need to review. Disregard.

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX

**Sent:** April 25, 2022 2:34 PM

**To:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <[Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca)>; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX <[Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Barrett, Lisa EMBC:EX <[Lisa.Barrett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Barrett@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: For Review: BCH Media Requests: BCH: Winters Hotel

Hi all, do you have any concerns with these BC Housing media responses related to the Winter Hotel, including reference to the investigation?

### **Recommendation – BCH to provide background**

We have learned that two deceased individuals were discovered in the Winters Hotel during building demolition.

We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life. Our thoughts are with their loved ones, with the other former residents of the Winters Hotel, and with the frontline staff members and first responders who have worked hard to support all involved.

After the fire broke out, Atira, the housing operator, quickly provided the Vancouver Police Department with a list of residents in the building. Since then, Atira, BC Housing, and the City of Vancouver have been supporting the police in trying to confirm safety of residents over the past two weeks. It had been reported that the Winters Hotel was safely evacuated of all occupants during the fire, and we are disheartened to learn that this account was inaccurate.

s.13

We are working to ensure that appropriate supports, including counselling and consultation through disaster psychosocial support, are made available to other former Winters Hotel tenants during this difficult time.

s.13

Thanks,  
Aimée

---

**From:** Butler, Liam GCPE:EX <[Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** April 25, 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <[Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca)>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <[Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Review: BCH Media Requests: BCH: Winters Hotel

Hi Aimee,

As mentioned, please see the three responses below for your review. The third response is the same as the others but with one additional highlighted line.

Thank you!

**Reporter**

Jen St. Denis, Reporter  
The Tyee  
[jen.st\\_denis@bellmedia.ca](mailto:jen.st_denis@bellmedia.ca)

Vancouver have been supporting the police in trying to confirm safety of residents over the past two weeks. It had been reported that the Winters Hotel was safely evacuated of all occupants during the fire, and we are disheartened to learn that this account was inaccurate.

s.13

We are working to ensure that appropriate supports, including counselling and consultation through disaster psychosocial support, are made available to other former Winters Hotel tenants during this difficult time.

s.13

#### **Reporter**

Susan Lazaruk, Reporter  
Vancouver Sun  
[slazaruk@postmedia.com](mailto:slazaruk@postmedia.com)  
604-605-2010 c: 604-802-4948

**Deadline** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:00 PM

#### **Request**

VPD says Atira and BC Housing responsible for accounting for residents after fire.  
Spoke with Atira.  
Asking BC Housing what went wrong that at least one resident, Mary Ann Garlow, was not treated as missing person til her body was found.  
Will a Coroner's Inquest be called?  
Has policy or protocols for fires changed?

#### **Recommendation – BCH to provide background**

We have learned that two deceased individuals were discovered in the Winters Hotel during building demolition.

We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life. Our thoughts are with their loved ones, with the other former residents of the Winters Hotel, and with the frontline staff members and first responders who have worked hard to support all involved.

After the fire broke out, Atira, the housing operator, quickly provided the Vancouver Police

604-648-3213 c: 604-710-3964

**Deadline** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:00 PM

**Request**

I'm working on a story about one of the Winters Hotel fire whose body was recovered from the site of the fire on Friday.

Her family has a lot of questions about why it took so long for her to remain unaccounted for.

During the April 12 press conference, Dale McMann said BC Housing staff said they had been led to believe all 71 residents had been accounted for. Can you tell me where that information came from? At any point over the next few days, were BC Housing staff informed that might not be the case? Do you know if any other Winters tenants remain unaccounted for?

**Reporter**

Amir Ali, Reporter  
The Daily Hive - Vancouver  
[amir@dailyhive.com](mailto:amir@dailyhive.com)  
236-982-0161

**Deadline** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:30 PM

**Request**

I attended the media availability with Chief Karen Fry last week about the Winters Hotel demolition.

The press event followed the tragic discovery of a dead body inside the building. When asked about missing persons, Chief Fry suggested we talk to BC Housing.

Has there been any indication as to whether there could be more missing people inside the building?

**Recommendation – BCH to provide background to both outlets**

We have learned that two deceased individuals were discovered in the Winters Hotel during building demolition.

We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life. Our thoughts are with their loved ones, with the other former residents of the Winters Hotel, and with the frontline staff members and first responders who have worked hard to support all involved.

After the fire broke out, Atira, the housing operator, quickly provided the Vancouver Police Department with a list of residents in the building. Since then, Atira, BC Housing, and the City of

Department with a list of residents in the building. Since then, Atira, BC Housing, and the City of Vancouver have been supporting the police in trying to confirm safety of residents over the past two weeks. It had been reported that the Winters Hotel was safely evacuated of all occupants during the fire, and we are disheartened to learn that this account was inaccurate.

s.13

We are working to ensure that appropriate supports, including counselling and consultation through disaster psychosocial support, are made available to other former Winters Hotel tenants during this difficult time.

s.13

**From:** [Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX](#)  
**To:** [Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX](#); [Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: For Review: BCH Follow-up Media Request: BCH: Winters Hotel  
**Date:** April 26, 2022 10:58:00

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Looks good to me. Please amend to Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (remove *and*).

Thanks,

Sheldon

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**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** April 26, 2022 10:56  
**To:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <[Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca)>; Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <[Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <[Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: For Review: BCH Follow-up Media Request: BCH: Winters Hotel

Hi Brian and Sheldon, do you have any concerns with BC Housing's draft response to this follow-up media request? It's consistent with the response yesterday.

#### **Request**

I was just curious if both of the deceased people have confirmed to be residents of the Winters? I saw some other reports quoting Janice Abbott saying she didn't think the second person had been a resident. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8781610/winters-hotel-fire-victim-identified/>

#### **Recommendation – BCH to provide background**

Due to privacy concerns, we cannot comment on the specifics of any individual BC Housing applicant or tenant – living or deceased – without their or their estate's express written permission. BC Housing is cooperating with the Coroners Service, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and the Vancouver Police Department investigations, and further information about this process will be provided by them.

---

**From:** Butler, Liam GCPE:EX <[Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** April 26, 2022 10:53 AM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <[Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca)>; Dixon, Alanna FIN:EX <[Alanna.Dixon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alanna.Dixon@gov.bc.ca)>; Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <[Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Review: BCH Follow-up Media Request: BCH: Winters Hotel

Hi Aimee,

We've received a follow-up on the Winters Hotel. Any concerns with the below response?



Thank you,

**Reporter**

Jen St. Denis, Reporter  
The Tyee  
[jen.st\\_denis@bellmedia.ca](mailto:jen.st_denis@bellmedia.ca)  
604-648-3213 c: 604-710-3964

**Deadline** 4:00 PM

**Request**

I was just curious if both of the deceased people have confirmed to be residents of the Winters? I saw some other reports quoting Janice Abbott saying she didn't think the second person had been a resident. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8781610/winters-hotel-fire-victim-identified/>

**Recommendation – BCH to provide background**

Due to privacy concerns, we cannot comment on the specifics of any individual BC Housing applicant or tenant – living or deceased – without their or their estate's express written permission. BC Housing is cooperating with the Coroners Service, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and the Vancouver Police Department investigations, and further information about this process will be provided by them.

**Background**

This is a follow-up to a media request from April 25, 2022.

*REQUEST:*

I'm working on a story about one of the Winters Hotel fire whose body was recovered from the site of the fire on Friday.

Her family has a lot of questions about why it took so long for her to remain unaccounted for.

During the April 12 press conference, Dale McMann said BC Housing staff said they had been led to believe all 71 residents had been accounted for. Can you tell me where that information came from? At any point over the next few days, were BC Housing staff informed that might not be the case? Do you know if any other Winters tenants remain unaccounted for?

*RESPONSE:*

Provided Background

We have learned that two deceased individuals were discovered in the Winters Hotel during building demolition.

We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life. Our thoughts are with their loved ones, with the other former residents of the Winters Hotel, and with the frontline staff members and first responders who have worked hard to support all involved.

After the fire broke out, Atira, the housing operator, quickly provided the Vancouver Police Department with a list of residents in the building. Since then, Atira, BC Housing, the City of Vancouver, police and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services have been working together to confirm safety of residents over the past two weeks. It had been reported that the Winters Hotel was safely evacuated of all occupants during the fire, and we are disheartened to learn that this account was inaccurate.

s.13

We are working to ensure that appropriate supports, including counselling and consultation through disaster psychosocial support, are made available to other former Winters Hotel tenants during this difficult time.

s.13

**From:** [Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX](#)  
**To:** [Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: For Review: AG Media Request: BCH: Winters Hotel Fire  
**Date:** May 9, 2022 11:53:00

---

Hi Krystal.

I made a couple small edits. Looks good.

Thanks,

Sheldon

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**From:** Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 9, 2022 11:48  
**To:** Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: For Review: AG Media Request: BCH: Winters Hotel Fire

Hi Sheldon,

Are you still ok with this response from the AG re: Winters Hotel fire?

Thanks,  
Krystal

**Reporter**

Jen St. Denis, Reporter  
The Tyee  
[jen.st\\_denis@bellmedia.ca](mailto:jen.st_denis@bellmedia.ca)  
604-648-3213 c: 604-710-3964

**Deadline** Monday, May 9, 2022 4:00 PM

**Request**

A second tenant from the Winters hotel was confirmed missing by VPD, can BC Housing comment on it's review of how tenants are accounted for?

**Recommendation – BC Housing to provide background**

We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life caused by the Winters Hotel fire. Our thoughts are with their loved ones, with the other former residents of the Winters Hotel, and with the frontline staff members and first responders who have worked hard to support all involved.

After the fire broke out, Atira, the housing operator, quickly provided the Vancouver Police Department with a list of residents in the building. Since then, Atira, BC Housing, the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire Rescue Services have been working together to confirm safety of residents. It had been reported that the Winters Hotel

was safely evacuated of all occupants during the fire, and we are disheartened to learn that this account was inaccurate.

s.13

**Liam Butler** | Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Attorney General and Responsible for Housing  
778 584-2433  
*he, him*

**From:** [Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX](#)  
**To:** [Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX](#); [Maartman, William PSSG:EX](#); [Collins, Vasuhi B EMBC:EX](#); [Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX](#); [Maloughney, Mary Sue EMBC:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: REQUEST: OFC Inquiry - Winters Hotel Fire  
**Date:** May 11, 2022 16:15:23

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Madeline,

I have spoken to the Fire Chief from Vancouver this afternoon for an update and have responded through eApprovals as requested on this matter.

Brian

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**From:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 11, 2022 13:37  
**To:** Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>; Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>; Collins, Vasuhi B EMBC:EX <Vasuhi.Collins@gov.bc.ca>; Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; Maloughney, Mary Sue EMBC:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** REQUEST: OFC Inquiry - Winters Hotel Fire

Brian

Pls cc all on your response

Thanks

M

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)  
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: 250 318-8441  
**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**  
Follow EMBC at [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [@PreparedBC](#)  
Follow the OFC at [@BC\\_FireSafety](#) and [@BCFireSafety](#)

*With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people*

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**From:** Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 11, 2022 13:31  
**To:** Maloughney, Mary Sue EMBC:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>; Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Maartman, William PSSG:EX <[William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** OFC Inquiry - Winters Hotel Fire

Hey Mary-Sue and Madeline,

Thinking this probably fits with the Fire Commissioner's Office, but are there any active investigations underway into the Winters Hotel Fire in Gastown earlier this month? Anything related to cause, or evacuation issues would be useful

Thanks,

Andrew Douglas

Ministerial Advisor to Hon. Mike Farnworth

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office of the Deputy Premier and Government House Leader

250 – 883 – 1764

**From:** [Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX](#)  
**To:** [Wright, Steve EMBC:EX](#); [England, Elizabeth EMBC:EX](#); [Hull, Ron EMBC:EX](#); [Burgess, Dave EMBC:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Winter's hotel fire  
**Date:** June 10, 2022 12:54:00

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Thanks Steve!

S.

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**From:** Wright, Steve EMBC:EX <[Steve.Wright@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Wright@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 10, 2022 12:04  
**To:** Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <[Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca)>; England, Elizabeth EMBC:EX <[Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca)>; Hull, Ron EMBC:EX <[Ron.Hull@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ron.Hull@gov.bc.ca)>; Burgess, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Burgess@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Burgess@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Winter's hotel fire

Question has been asked and waiting ...

**Steve Wright, ECFO, CCFI-C**  
**Fire Service Advisor**  
Office of the Fire Commissioner  
Emergency Management BC  
Emergency Coordination Center (24 hours): [1-888-988-9488](tel:1-888-988-9488)  
[Office of the Fire Commissioner](#)

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**From:** Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <[Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 11:23:05 AM  
**To:** England, Elizabeth EMBC:EX <[Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca)>; Hull, Ron EMBC:EX <[Ron.Hull@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ron.Hull@gov.bc.ca)>; Wright, Steve EMBC:EX <[Steve.Wright@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Wright@gov.bc.ca)>; Burgess, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Burgess@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Burgess@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Winter's hotel fire

I will ask that Steve reaches out as this is his area.

Thanks,

Sheldon

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**From:** England, Elizabeth EMBC:EX <[Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.England@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 7, 2022 15:31  
**To:** Hull, Ron EMBC:EX <[Ron.Hull@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ron.Hull@gov.bc.ca)>; Wright, Steve EMBC:EX <[Steve.Wright@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Wright@gov.bc.ca)>; Burgess, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Burgess@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Burgess@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Young, Sheldon EMBC:EX <[Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheldon.Young@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Winter's hotel fire

Hi all,

Just wondering if one of you could please check in with Vancouver FD and ask about the status of the fire report from the April 11, 2022 fire at Winters hotel in Gastown.

It has not been entered into the system yet and there are 2 fatalities associated with that incident.

Thanks,

**Elizabeth (Liz) England** | Fire Reporting Officer

Office of the Fire Commissioner | Emergency Management BC | 236-478-1185

Follow the [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#)





**From:** [Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Rothe, Karen J EMBC:EX](#); [Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX](#); [Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FYI: Winters Hotel inquest ST - Final  
**Date:** July 21, 2022 14:59:19  
**Attachments:** [2022PSSG0053-001151.pdf](#)

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**From:** Bourgeois, Danielle GCPE:EX <[Danielle.Bourgeois@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Bourgeois@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 21, 2022 2:50 PM  
**To:** Panton, Ryan PSSG:EX <[Ryan.Panton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Panton@gov.bc.ca)>; Berndt, Eric GCPE:EX <[Eric.Berndt@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eric.Berndt@gov.bc.ca)>; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX <[Darren.Harbord@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darren.Harbord@gov.bc.ca)>; Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX <[David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Winters Hotel inquest ST - Final

Hi all,

Here's the final for the Winters Hotel deaths inquest. ST to go out at 3pm.  
Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/27216>

PSSG will lead on media requests.

**Danielle Bourgeois**  
**Senior Public Affairs Officer**  
**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**Cell: 250-880-4738**

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## STATEMENT

For Immediate Release  
2022PSSG0053-001151  
July 21, 2022

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

### **Minister's statement on Winters Hotel deaths inquest**

VICTORIA – Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has released the following statement on directing an inquest into two deaths linked to the Winters Hotel fire:

“The fire that destroyed the Winters Hotel in Vancouver on April 11, 2022, tragically resulted in the death of two people.

“We are deeply saddened by this terrible loss of life. My thoughts are with Mary Ann Garlow's and Dennis Guay's loved ones, and with the other former residents of the hotel. I also recognize and thank the front-line staff and first responders who have supported everyone affected by the fire.

“Today, I have directed a coroner's inquest into these deaths. Once the coroner's investigation has gathered sufficient evidence, an inquest jury will hear evidence from witnesses under oath and make findings regarding the facts of the deaths. The jury may also make recommendations aimed at preventing deaths under similar circumstances.

“Our government is committed to keeping people safe and helping prevent families from losing loved ones to fires. In June, we announced we are partnering with Statistics Canada to create a Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard to help B.C. fire services prevent fires, reduce injuries and save lives.

“Everyone deserves to be safe in their homes. Recommendations from the inquest into the Winters Hotel deaths could help prevent fires in single-room occupancy buildings and save lives.

“As the number of fire-related deaths increases in British Columbia, it is imperative that we take action to ensure vulnerable people are protected from fire hazards.”

#### **Contact:**

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Media Relations  
250 213-3602

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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [news.gov.bc.ca/connect](https://news.gov.bc.ca/connect)