From: donovanfamily
To: Corporate Services

Subject: Suicide Prevention Support for Indigenous Children

Date: July-28-24 11:30:28 PM

Attachments: School Cousellors call to the SPEAC Program in Oct.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

My name is Laura Donovan, a member of the Odanak First Nation, living on the territories of the Coast Salish peoples. I want to thank you for your willingness to read this letter, as it may be triggering and difficult to read. I am fully aware of the significant impact suicide has had on every one of our communities.

I have been a Tattooer for 15 years, starting in Selkirk, Manitoba, and now in Surrey, BC. I have tattooed countless memorials for fellow Indigenous community members, using my craft to heal and provide good medicine. I never expected that I would end up tattooing memorials to honor my daughter.

I would like to share information about my 16-year-old daughter Felicity, an Indigenous student and a proud Abenaki member of the Odanak First Nation. Felicity died by suicide in December 2023.

In October 2023, she reached out for suicide prevention support at school, and a call was made to an external agency for help. I did not learn about the details of this call or the support the school had committed to provide until January 2024. At that time, I discovered that the school principal had contacted a different external support agency, informing them that Felicity had not presented as at risk and was not on their radar.

Additionally, I learned that the Surrey School District had a suicide prevention protocol that was not followed and did not have a suicide prevention program or plan to address students presenting with thoughts of suicide, nor support for staff providing this support to students.

On July 22nd, I met with the BC Minister of Education to share Felicity's experience and the experiences of many Indigenous families who have shared their stories with me over the years. In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, to honor the lives of all Indigenous children lost to suicide and to ensure Every Child Matters, I have requested the following from the Minister:

- 1. The Ministry of Education ensures all schools in British Columbia are funded and equipped to provide suicide prevention support and training to staff and students based on current evidence-based practices. I request this with the understanding that all children and staff will benefit from this honor.
- 2. The Ministry of Education performs an audit of the suicide prevention support provided to Felicity and our family.

I am reaching out to ask if you municipal leadership will add your voice to my call to provide improved suicide prevention support for children in your municipality. Please consider providing me with a letter addressed to the British Columbia Minister of Education, the Honourable Rachna Singh, in support of my request, with a CC to my email

If you have any questions or would like more information that will enable you to provide a letter of support, please reach out to me, and I will respond promptly.

I have attached supporting information for your reference:

- 1. A picture of Felicity.
- 2. A record of the call the School Counsellor made to a suicide prevention program where Felicity asked for support.
- 3. A record of the call the Principal made to another suicide prevention program, informing them Felicity was not presenting as at risk or on their radar.
- 4. A letter of support from the Chief and Council of Odanak First Nation.

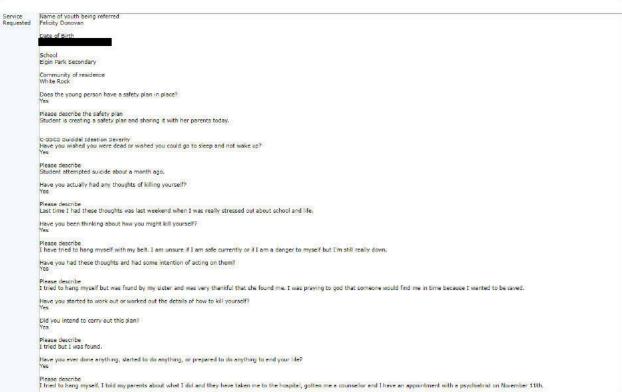
Thank you for your time and attention,

Laura Donovan (Felicity's Mom)



Brief Service Stats Report





Provided	Writer called back to a patter more information, that design the pattern of the second
_	
Outstanding Needs	is going to connect with youth's parents and find out who youth's counsallor is (whether this counsellor is with START or not). will connect with us again if she has any questions or if youth is in need of more support.
Minutes Spent	20 🕝
	Cancel Save Drief Service Attendance

Hi everyone,

The principal was requesting information regarding START protocol. Specifically, for when START communicates/ collects collateral with the school and the ROI process. I explained to the principal that the ROI is part of confidentiality and the youth because they were 16 years of age at the time would have signed ROI during the assessment (first meeting with clinician). The principle asked when START would get in touch with the school and I let her know that the supervisor would have to contact her to disclose more information. She went on to reiterate that youth's dad earlier today spoke with a clinician and he had sent the principal an email regarding the gaps in care between school and START.

Principal said the school counsellor found out youth was seeing START clinician once family had mentioned it to them school Counsellor). Writer requested if at that time school counsellor had called START to collect collateral. She went on to say that youth at school was not presenting as being at risk or on their radar. Therefore, this was not done. I reiterated to the principal a couple times that the supervisor will have to contact them as I do not have all the information and we would need permission from the family to release any information regarding youth. The principal expressed that a meeting may be needed to discuss how we all can do better in the future.

I was under the impression that would be follow up, however, I spoke with and they informed me that it would be

Also, in regards to reporting, because there is no longer an open Paris file, we have not been documenting the conversations.

Lastly, which details does the team need to know in order for the information to be relayed safely and delicately, when we receive calls similar to todays.

Thus far, and have spoken to ded and I spoke with the school principal.

Regards,

Taj Sahota (She/Her)

Crisis Clinician

The START Team-Supporting Children and Youth through Mental Health Crisis

Shirley Dean Pavilion

9634 King George Boulevard

Surrey, BC V3T 0G7

Phone:



July 25th, 2024

Honourable Rachna Singh British Columbia Minister of Education ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Object: letter of support for the Donovan family

Kwai,

Wliwni.

On December 21, 2023, the Abenaki of Odanak lost a member, Miss Felicity Donovan. She was only 16 years old. Her family has been waiting for answers on the support provided to their daughter to prevent her suicide. No parent should be in their position.

On behalf of the Abenaki Council of Odanak, we would like to support the Donovan family in their requests:

- The Ministry of Education ensures all schools in British Columbia are funded and equipped to provide suicide prevention support and training to staff and students based on current evidence-based practices. I request this with the understanding that all children and staff will benefit from this honor;
- The Ministry of Education performs an audit of the suicide prevention support provided to Felicity and our family.

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin Abenaki Council of Odanak reception/g caedanak.com