
Tammy Oliver-McCurdie did not attend the Small Group Session which took place on August 31, 2022. On November 24, 2022, she provided the following written answers to the questions that were posed during the small group session.

So, the question is, what do you want to tell us about your experience seeking information and getting support during and immediately after the mass casualty?

- 1) *There was nobody in Alberta to offer support locally, for months....*
 - a. *On or about April 22/23, 2020 from my parent's house, I called Victim Services here in Alberta, and they returned my call saying "they could not come out during covid and unsure of where the next steps for them was", I never heard back from them.*
 - b. *Victim Services Nova Scotia called a few times, to my parents when I was there, and I myself spoke to them directly but they never really had solutions on how to help us from afar for months.*
 - c. *It was not until June 2020 that the counseling program from the Department of Justice in Nova Scotia sent letters out for financial counseling support.*
 - d. *I then contacted the Department of Justice in Nova Scotia in June 2020 as the amount per session was inadequate for Alberta Service delivery cost. Further it would cost a family of 5 hundreds to thousands of dollars a month for all to get counseling. After speaking with the Director of Criminal Injuries in the Department of Justice (Dana) a few times we were then allocated more per session which ended up being adequate for our counseling rates in Alberta.*

While I truly appreciate the supports Nova Scotia has offered with respect to financial counseling supports, I also recognize that it happened months later which left a hole without supports initially and appropriate guidance with early decision making.

- 2) *There is a need for transparent fact based processes to identify family members and info to the public, further the need to be held accountable in the way that information is conveyed from authorities and supports.*
 - a. *One could perceive that without facts that ones thoughts or opinions could leave a lasting impression and without definitive facts that it is open to interpretation and emotional decision making.*

One of the things in your interview summary is that you speak about Constable Bent as a lifeline to the family. I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about what were the services or what were the functions that he performed that would have you say that? It is not about reviewing his behavior. It is about understanding what he did that would be really helpful to families in the future. So, I was just wondering if you could talk a little bit about that?

Even though Const Wayne Bent had an enormous job and was yes a life line to my parents throughout for various reasons highlighted in their statement, one point of feedback and concern would be specific to one circumstance that could use more policy, guidance and procedure regarding the following;

Const Wayne Bent was asked by my family to check into the background and connection of a perceived questionable direct family member when determining next of kin and family linkage. Whereas, where information was not definitive there were definite heavy opinions he had conveyed from his search or awareness of individual, which was taken with weight in our families decision making and next steps. Whereas if there was a fact based process to deal with complex situations and support to definitely conclude in determining next of kin I feel this would have saved a ton of grief, heartache, further loss and conflict between family members then, which has continued on to today.

Whereas lack of fact in all cases leads open to draw conclusions based on an individuals own values, which in turn can create further separation between family members.

The same could be said for transparency in any situation, people will draw conclusions and based those on their own experiences and values can differ and create further separation between family members and other individuals involved. Due to the lack of transparency and conflicting information in this case left many opportunities for differing opinions in a high stress and emotional case which drew people apart rather than together.

I wonder if those things were handled differently, if there were processes to drive fact and not hearsay or opinions that could be based off emotions, hurt, grief, that things would be much different today with the conflict that arose out of particular situation that come about from the tragedy on April 18/19 2020

So, the second round of questions is that, much of the work for the Commission that lies ahead is to formulate the recommendations that will be in our final report and we want those to be effective and meaningful for families. We are interested in hearing which issues are most important to you for the Commission to focus on as we finalize those recommendations.

- 1) Unanswered questions about their death from beginning till now. Still to date we have a couple hypothesis (definition of hypothesis is an educated guess), so only guesses and assumptions on what happened. No forensic questions have been answered to date which could give definitive conclusions or answers. Further 'Cannot identify nor eliminated" with all circumstances, especially for the amount of gunfire in my family's home is not good enough for our prestigious organization leading investigations, responsible for individual's safety in communities and leading-edge technology available today.*
- 2) The issue of one person as a representative for a family's, key point person contact, with MCC and Lawyers leaving it to the one point person to decide or demise on who they want to include. Not everyone is getting the same information or any at all. I get the theory of streamlining the process of communication, at the same rate I empathize the need to be inclusive with information and dissemination of information between all directly affected individuals.*
- 3) The perceived theory of streamlining grief, if that is a thing, with the Mass Causality Commission, in regards to those directly affected who are people grieving, emotions high in a very complex case is only further ripping them apart in the process. Not giving space for emotion for all and only giving space for processes is more than questionable. Can anyone really streamline grief without negative impacts?*

- 4) *After the inception of the MCC (Mass Causality Commission) why is it that we have more questions than answers today? 2.5 years later and still the quest for the truth for betterment of all is perceived as lost and unattainable. The stress with how this was perceived to be handled in favor of organizations rather than those who lost family member or injured during the mass causality is horrific and damaging itself.*
- 5) *RCMP needs a complete overhaul. For the most perceived prestigious organization with access to leading edge technology in various areas including investigation, responsible for the safety of all Canadians the reality is with this case it shows we are far from the truth and need for development in all areas which includes a complete overhaul in how we respond, react, problem solve and convey information to the public and directly affected.*
 - a. *Further how RCMP respond and who they decide to save, ie Griffon family. One family got an escort yet others were left to parish.*

Is there anything else?

Well April 17 2020 I lived with a perception and lifestyle that we had a very strong family. Always connected with aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, parents and siblings, not just on holidays but throughout the year. One would think "unbreakable" on what our family has built and worked hard to maintain with many events, holidays, celebrations, challenges and continued connection and support within.

Today I sit here writing you with much disconnection all around for all of my family members and family units related, as we can definitely attribute it to the challenges this case has presented that our family faced in Alberta, with miss information, opinions, conspiracies with lack of transparency from the beginning, driven by continued and varying conclusions and opinions in the depths of grief. Much of this has created the separation and divide. It's sad but true with no hope in sight for a family that once was....the damage is done.

So much damage has taken place in this very public, non-transparent case with varying opinions, values and emotions for all.

It is said there is a focus for the living, to be better than we were. However, all this has done for the living directly affected is further divide and tear us apart from the very beginning, due to how this all was handled from various organizations, and continues to divide every day as the systemic nature of it makes it worse.

My only hope is for truth and transparency, but for that we need facts in all areas. Cause with that the conspiracies, varying opinions and assumptions go away and healing can really start for all. Without it, nobody can really heal.

Tammy Oliver-McCurdie

(Sister of Jolene Oliver, Aunt of Emily Tuck and Sister in law to Aaron Tuck)