

Coroner not identifying victims in Moberly Lake incident 'at this time'

JONNY WAKEFIELD

Staff Writer

The BC Coroners Service is not identifying three people found dead in a Moberly Lake home last week, citing a review of how it discloses the identities of people who have died suddenly in the province.

On the morning of March 17, police found three people dead in a home in the Lakeview subdivision after responding to a 911 call reporting a disturbance. The subdivision is located on the Sauteau First Nations reserve, a community of around 400 people west of Dawson Creek.

Police have released few details on what happened. The North District Major Crimes unit is investigating and says there is no risk to the public.

On Monday, a Coroners Service spokesperson said in an email that it would not be releasing the identities of the victims "at this time."

The service is reviewing its policies "to ensure we're in compliance with legislative requirements of the Coroners Act," the spokesperson said. "Until that review is complete, names of the deceased will not be publicly released."

Alana McMahan, executive administrative assistant to the chief coroner, said the policy review was already underway and not in response to the Moberly Lake incident.

"It's all cases," said McMahan. "We're sort of reviewing our policy overall right now, so while we're doing that we're not really releasing anything until we settle on what the practice is going to officially be."

The Coroners Service is responsible for investigating unnatural, unexplained or unattended deaths, as well as sudden or unexpected fatalities.

A coroner attends the scenes of those deaths and identifies the deceased. Depending on the circumstances, that information is typically released to the public. The coroner also establishes whether a death was an accident, a murder or suicide or due to natural causes.