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DR. ARNOLD FRANCIS
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

NEW DENVER, B. C.

July 19, 1945

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT

RECEIVED

JUL 23 1945

File No. C81-4

Department of Attorney-General,
Parliament Bldgs.,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir; Re Inquest on body of Allen Tokura Tsuji

This young Japanese boy was accidentally drowned while bathing in the Slocan river near Slocan City B.C.

While I concur in the findings of the Jury empannelled to inquire into the circumstances concerning his death I feel that there should be more supervision of the children while in swimming. Apparently these people are allowed to swim wherever they wish irrespective of their ability to look after themselves or not. There is a place on the shore of the lake set aside for bathing but the B.C. Security Commission assumes not responsibility for providing life guards or even adequate boats or life saving apparatus.

This is the second needless fatality due to lack of suitable supervision and equipment.

I heartily suggest that your department take what steps deemed necessary to see that both personel and equipment is made available by the Commission for the protection of young bathers in Slocan City.

Signed,

A. Francis
A. Francis M.D. Coroner.

ACKNOWLEDGED

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C-81-4 (New Denver)

July 23rd 1945.

The British Columbia Security Commission,
360 Homer Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sirs:-

Re Inquest Allen Tokura Tsuji, Decd.

The abovenamed was drowned while bathing in the Slocan River near Slocan on the 15th instant, and the Coroner's Jury brought in the following verdict:-

"We the Jury, empanelled this 16th day of July 1945 to enquire into the death of Allen Tsuji resident at Popoff Project, Canadian born Japanese parents find:
That Allen Tsuji was accidentally drowned while bathing in Slocan River near Japanese Settlement known as Popoff Project, Slocan, B.C., approximately two miles south of Slocan City, British Columbia, at approximately 3.30 p.m. on Sunday July 15, 1945, with no blame attached to anyone."

In reporting this case the Coroner has written as follows:-

"This young Japanese boy was accidentally drowned while bathing in the Slocan River near Slocan City, B.C. While I concur in the findings of the Jury empanelled to inquire into the circumstances concerning his death I feel that there should be more supervision of the children while in swimming. Apparently these people are allowed to swim wherever they wish irrespective of their ability to look after themselves or not. There is a place on the shore of the lake set aside for bathing but the B.C. Security Commission assumes no responsibility for providing life guards or even adequate boats or life saving apparatus. This is the second needless fatality due to lack of suitable supervision and equipment. I heartily suggest that your department take what steps deemed necessary to see that both personnel and equipment is made available by the Commission for the protection of young bathers in Slocan City."

The above for your information and such action as you see fit to take in the matter.

I have the honour to be,
Sirs,
Your obedient servant,

Deputy Attorney-General.