

RELEASE OF DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY REPORT

Monday, Jan. 22, 2024

The proceedings for the Desmond Fatality Inquiry will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at the Port Hawkesbury courthouse, located at 15 Kennedy St., Port Hawkesbury, N.S. The purpose of this appearance is to release Judge Paul Scovil's final report and recommendations.

On Jan. 3, 2017, the bodies of Lionel Desmond, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, his wife Shanna, their 10-year-old daughter Aaliyah, and Mr. Desmond's mother Brenda, were found in a home in Upper Big Tracadie, Guysborough County. It was believed at the time that Mr. Desmond took the lives of his family members before he took his own life.

Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Examiner reviewed the circumstances of the deaths and recommended to the Minister of Justice that an inquiry be held under the province's [*Fatality Investigations Act*](#).

As per the Act, the final report and recommendations from the Inquiry must be filed with the Provincial Court. A copy will also be provided to the Minister of Justice and released to the public on the Desmond Fatality Inquiry [website](#).

The proceedings in Port Hawkesbury will begin at 11 a.m. AST on Jan. 31 and will be livestreamed on the Inquiry website at <https://desmondinquiry.ca/webcast.html>.

Please note that members of the media who attend in person at the courthouse will be provided an embargoed print copy of the report to review at 9 a.m. AST. Those unable to attend can access an electronic version of the report on the Inquiry website after the proceedings conclude.

For additional background on the Desmond Fatality Inquiry, as well as archived webcasts and transcripts of past proceedings, please visit www.desmondinquiry.ca.

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