

From your perspective, and interactions with the OCC and OFPS, what are the current strengths of the Ontario death investigation system?

- The stringent peer review and system evaluation practices ensure that service delivery is of extremely high quality
- The robust review process for death investigation ensures high quality reporting which produces strong evidence in inquests
- The OCC and OFPS staff are highly educated and qualified which contributes to expert death investigation performance
- The OFPS is functioning at a very effective level
- The staff involved in death investigation are committed to providing superior quality and are highly accountable to the public
- Death investigation reports are extremely transparent and the organization is approachable when it comes to accounting for the content within reports

Source: Electronic survey of external stakeholders

From your perspective, what are the key issues and challenges your organization faces in its interactions with the Ontario death investigation system, OCC and OFPS? What are the risks of not resolving these issues?

- There is a clear issue with communication between the two entities and external stakeholders. For example, issues surrounding the exchange of information between the two parties leaves other stakeholders waiting for important resolutions
- There is an inconsistency in quality in both systems. Coroner individualism or a lack of standardization contributes to the issue on the coroner side whereas inconsistency in training, recruitment and retention exacerbates the issue on the forensic pathologist side
- The system could be more financially efficient and could spend less by pairing the appropriate resources with cases of varying severity/complexity
- Death investigations are perceived to take too long and feedback for inquests to involved parties (i.e. families, agencies) is substantially delayed.

Source: Electronic survey of external stakeholders

In your opinion, what are the greatest opportunities for change within the current system in order to better serve your organization and the public at large?

- An electronic database/archive of death investigation files should enhance accessibility, expedite distribution of reports to all relevant stakeholders, and enhance communication between coroners and pathologists
- Inquests should engage a broader team of experts (e.g. medical specialists, community members, etc.) at the onset of inquests (as opposed to engaging them later in the process) to help steer and inform the inquest process based on the context of the death
- Creating more full-time coroner and medical examiner positions versus the current part-time system could further specialize the skill set of coroners and strengthen consistency in service delivery
- Further integration of forensic pathologists into the death investigation process to leverage their expertise
- External communication to the public regarding the OCC to build awareness and build public perception/confidence

Source: Electronic survey of external stakeholders