

## First Nations student deaths inquest hears from mother of Paul Panacheese

[CBC News](#) Posted: Oct 08, 2015 12:58 PM ET Last Updated: Oct 08, 2015 2:45 PM ET

The inquest into the deaths of seven First Nations students in Thunder Bay, Ont., heads into its fourth day on Thursday when the jury is expected to hear testimony from one of the students' family members for the first time.

The inquest is looking into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of seven young people between the ages of 15 and 21, all of whom came to Thunder Bay from remote First Nations in northern Ontario to attend high school.

Their deaths occurred between 2000 and 2011.


- [First Nations student deaths inquest; family member speaks out](#)
- [First Nations student deaths inquest hears from education authority](#)
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The first days of two days of testimony were taken up with pathology and toxicology reports for all seven deaths, information about the First Nations education authority that runs the school that six of the seven students attended, and a tour of that school.

On Thursday, Maryanne Panacheese, the mother of 21-year-old Paul Panacheese, who died in 2006, was expected to testify.

Here is a look at the some of the proceedings on Thursday from the CBC reporter in the courtroom.

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Day 4 of First Nations student death inquest begins with cross examination of high school principal Jonathan Kakegamic  
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Most family members have returned home to their remote First Nations. They'll be back at various points throughout 6-month inquest [#cbctb](#)

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Lawyer questions Kakegamic about special room at high school used to care for students who are found intoxicated [#cbctb](#)

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'They drink because they are hurting,' Kakegamic says. 'When you have a youth drinking Tues. aft., he's drinking to cope'

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Lawyer Chantelle Bryson asks whether the high school has a good relationship with EMS. Coroner says question inappropriate [#cbctb](#)

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With jury excused, tensions among lawyers rise. Lawyers complain to coroner about missed deadlines, lack of communication [#cbctb](#)

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'I want all of us to work together to make sure evidence is brought forward in a full and logical way,' presiding coroner says [#cbctb](#)

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Maryanne Panacheese, mother of Paul, who died at 21, now taking stand [#cbctb](#)

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'I appreciate your courage in speaking to us today,' Coroner tells Maryanne Panacheese. #cbctb

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Mother says her son, Paul Panacheese lived in 10 different boarding homes in #tbay while trying to finish school #cbctb

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'Sometimes he said that they were made fun of, that eggs were thrown at them,' Panacheese says of what son told her of city life #cbctb

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'I moved to #tbay because I wanted to be with my boy and look after him myself,' Panacheese says #cbctb

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Mother Maryanne Panacheese breaks down when asked about son's final moments. Coroner calls for a break #cbctb

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Raw, emotional testimony after the break, even some lawyers wiping their eyes #cbctb

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Panacheese describes he son's last words to her after coming home from being out with friends 'mom, I'm home now' #cbctb

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Panacheese says she went to bed and then heard her son collapse on the floor in the kitchen #cbctb

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'I tried to wake him up, I said Paul get up, go sleep in your bed or on the couch,' Panacheese says of her son.

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'Something has happened to my son' she remembers telling 911 operator. #cbctb

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Autopsy in evidence earlier shows no physical or toxicological cause of Paul's death, likely a rare, hereditary heart problem #cbctb

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Panacheese under cross examination, says she went to Indian Residential school near Sioux Lookout, didn't want Paul to go there #cbctb

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'Paul respected me. He never said any bad words to me. He always tried to do what I say' Panacheese says #cbctb

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Small smile from Maryanne when she answers question about what son Paul liked to eat: fish, moose meat, bannock #cbctb

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Lawyer Chantelle Bryson asks about Paul's reports to mom about having eggs thrown at him and 'other incidents of racism' 1/2

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Coroner intercedes 'that presupposes that every incident of egg throwing is an an act of racism' #cbctb

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'You've waited many years for this, we can wait for you' lawyer Julian Falconer tells Maryanne Panacheese as she struggles to speak #cbctb

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'I told him just to co-exist with non-natives, that's the way it has got to be,' Panacheese says about advice she gave to her son #cbctb

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'I told him not to say bad things or treat anybody bad that's not his race,' Panacheese says. #cbctb

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After eggs were thrown at her son in the city, Panacheese says she told him not to respond to negative attitudes of others #cbctb

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'I have enormous respect for you to be able to come here and tell us about your son,' coroner says as Panacheese wraps up testimony #cbctb

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Next witness, is testifying remotely via video hook-up. Court staff struggles to get audio working. #cbctb

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Kira Kaminawish testifying remotely, says she was Paul's girlfriend in 2005/06. Says Paul used ecstasy, Percocet and cocaine #cbctb

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Kaminawish says there were no drugs or drinking at her boyfriend Paul Panacheese's mom's house #cbctb

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