



“Our community is shocked by this tragedy and we question the coroner’s finding as drowning as the cause of Tammy’s death. Tammy lived in community surrounded by water. As a member of the Junior Canadian Rangers she was trained to survive in harsh conditions. We are skeptical about how she died and where her body was found. We have many questions and look to the police and appropriate agencies for answers,” said North Caribou Lake First Nation Chief Dinah Kanate.

On May 12 police reported that a post-mortem examination indicates that Tammy’s death is consistent with drowning and that her death remains a “Coroner’s investigation”.

NAN has strongly encouraged the Thunder Bay Police Service to thoroughly investigate all circumstances around Tammy’s tragic loss, and will not simply accept the establishment of cause of death as a conclusion to this case. Police have not determined how Tammy came to be in the water, and there are many questions to be answered.

The quality of missing person investigations by the Thunder Bay Police Service was questioned during the inquest into the deaths of seven NAN youth since 2000 while living in Thunder Bay.

In November 2016, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) announced a systemic review of the Thunder Bay Police Service’s practices for policing Indigenous Peoples. Specifically, policies, practices and attitudes regarding missing person and death investigations.

In the meantime, NAN has established a Command Centre at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School to lead the search for Josiah.

“We are heartbroken over Tammy’s tragic loss and our hearts and prayers are with her family and the Weagamow community, who laid her body to rest yesterday,” said Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum. “We appreciate the efforts of everyone searching for Josiah and we will not give up hope for his safe return. His family and community desperately want him back, and we will do everything possible to find him.”

**Note to Media:** Neither Josiah Begg nor Tammy Keeash were students attending Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School. NAN appreciates the support of DFC to host the search Command Centre.

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