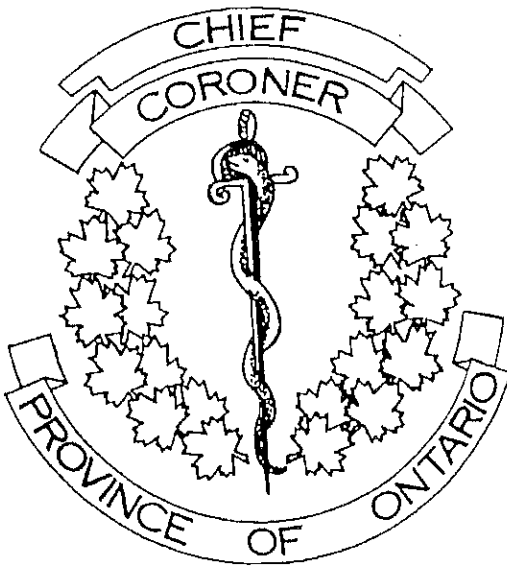


file  
-2002  
-92002-06.



INQUEST

TOUCHING THE DEATHS OF

Gillian Mary Hadley  
and  
Ralph Alexander Hadley

JURY VERDICT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

February 2002



Ministry of  
The Solicitor  
General

Ministère du  
Solliciteur  
général

Office of  
The Chief  
Coroner

Bureau du  
coroner  
en chef

# Verdict of Coroner's Jury Verdict du jury du coroner

We the  
undersigned  
Nous soussigné

\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_

the jury serving on the inquest into the death of / dûment assermentés, formant le jury dans l'enquête sur le décès de:

Surname / Nom de famille Hadley | Given names / Prénom Gillian

aged 35 held at the Coroner's Inquest Courts, 15 Grosvenor Street, Toronto, Ontario  
âgé(e) de qui a été menée à

From the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Oct. 2001 to the 8<sup>th</sup>. February 20 02  
du a la

By Dr. Bonita Porter Coroner for Ontario  
Par coroner pour l'Ontario

having been duly sworn, have inquired into and determined the following: / avons enquêté et avons déterminé ce qui suit:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Name of deceased<br>Nom du (de la) défunt(e)      | <u>Gillian Mary Hadley</u>                            |
| 2. Date and time of death<br>Date et heure du décès  | <u>20<sup>th</sup>. June 2000 at or after 9-06am.</u> |
| 3. Place of Death<br>Lieu de décès                   | <u>865 Hillcrest Road, Pickering, Ontario</u>         |
| 4. Cause of death<br>Cause du décès                  | <u>Gunshot to the head</u>                            |
| 5. By what means<br>Circonstances entourant le décès | <u>Homicide</u>                                       |

The verdict was received on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 20 02  
Ce verdict a été reçu par moi le

Dr. Bonita Porter  
Original signed by Coroner

Distribution: Original - Regional coroner for forwarding to Chief Coroner / L'original - coroner de la région pour transmission au coroner en chef

Copy - Crown Attorney / Copie - Procureur de la Couronne



Ontario

Ministry of  
The Solicitor  
General

Ministère du  
Soliciteur  
général

Office of  
The Chief  
Coroner

Bureau du  
coroner  
en chef

# Verdict of Coroner's Jury Verdict du jury du coroner

We the  
undersigned  
Nous soussigné

\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto  
de \_\_\_\_\_

the jury serving on the inquest into the death or / ou ment assermentés, formant le jury dans l'enquête sur le décès de:

Surname / Nom de famille Hadley | Given names / Prénom Ralph

aged 34 held at the Coroner's Inquest Courts, 15 Grosvenor Street, Toronto, Ontario  
 âgé(e) de \_\_\_\_\_ qui a été menée à \_\_\_\_\_

From the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Oct. 2001 to the 8<sup>th</sup>. February 20 02  
 du \_\_\_\_\_ a la \_\_\_\_\_

By Bonita Porter Coroner for Ontario  
 Par \_\_\_\_\_ coroner pour l'Ontario

having been duly sworn, have inquired into and determined the following: / avons enquêté et avons déterminé ce qui suit:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Name of deceased<br>Nom du (de la) défunt(e)      | <u>Ralph Alexander Hadley</u>                         |
| 2. Date and time of death<br>Date et heure du décès  | <u>20<sup>th</sup>. June 2000 at or after 9.06am.</u> |
| 3. Place of Death<br>Lieu de décès                   | <u>865 Hillcrest Road, Pickering, Ontario</u>         |
| 4. Cause of death<br>Cause du décès                  | <u>Gunshot to the head</u>                            |
| 5. By what means<br>Circonstances entourant le décès | <u>Suicide</u>  |

Original signed by jurors/jurés

The verdict was received on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 20 02  
 Ce verdict a été reçu par moi le \_\_\_\_\_

Bonita Porter  
 Original signed by Coroner

Distribution: Original - Regional coroner for forwarding to Chief Coroner / L'original - coroner de la région pour transmission au coroner en chef  
 Copy - Crown Attorney / Copie - Procureur de la Couronne

Inquest into the Deaths of Gillian Hadley and Ralph Hadley

Court Sitting Dates

**October 2001:**

22<sup>nd</sup>., 23<sup>rd</sup>., 25<sup>th</sup>., 26<sup>th</sup>., 29<sup>th</sup>., 30<sup>th</sup>. and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**November:**

1<sup>st</sup>., 5<sup>th</sup>., 6<sup>th</sup>., 7<sup>th</sup>., 8<sup>th</sup>., 13<sup>th</sup>., 14<sup>th</sup>., 19<sup>th</sup>., 21<sup>st</sup>., 22<sup>nd</sup>., 23<sup>rd</sup>., 26<sup>th</sup>., 27<sup>th</sup>., 28<sup>th</sup>., 29<sup>th</sup>. and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**December:**

3<sup>rd</sup>., 4<sup>th</sup>., 5<sup>th</sup>., 10<sup>th</sup>., 11<sup>th</sup>., 12<sup>th</sup>., 13<sup>th</sup>., 14<sup>th</sup>., 18<sup>th</sup>., 19<sup>th</sup>., 20<sup>th</sup>. and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**January 2002:**

8<sup>th</sup>., 14<sup>th</sup>., 15<sup>th</sup>., 16<sup>th</sup>., 17<sup>th</sup>., 24<sup>th</sup>., 25<sup>th</sup>., 28<sup>th</sup>., 29<sup>th</sup>., 30<sup>th</sup>. and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**February:**

1<sup>st</sup>., 4<sup>th</sup>., 5<sup>th</sup>., 6<sup>th</sup>., 7<sup>th</sup>. and 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Dr. Brown*

*Francis Bell*

## Opening Statement

We the jury offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Gillian and Ralph Hadley and our admiration to those neighbors who came to help. Despite the tragic end to the situation, we thank you.

The deaths of Gillian and Ralph will have a particularly distressing effect on their children and the additional publicity generated by this inquest will add to their grief. We are confident that the implementation of our recommendations will more than compensate for this distress by preventing similar tragedies in the future.

Domestic violence is a crime that is different from other crimes in two ways:

- The likelihood of repeat violence is common and at most times predictable,
- The victim is known in advance.

With this knowledge society has an opportunity to use its expertise, resources and updated technologies to prevent this type of crime with the ultimate goal of a safer environment and the saving of lives.

This jury hopes that our recommendations will help achieve these goals.

*Dr. [Signature]*


*[Signature]*

These recommendations are in no particular order of importance; however, we direct them to the following:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Ministry of the Solicitor General		X	X	X					X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X											
Ministry of Attorney General							X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X							
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing																																
Ministry of Community and Social Services																																
Chief Coroner's Office																																
Government of Ontario	X																					X	X	X	X							
Ontario Women's Directorate								X				X	X	X	X					X												
Crown Attorneys												X	X	X	X					X												
Government of Canada										X																						
The John Howard Society	X																															
Ministry of Correctional Services																																
Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAIH)	X																															
Ontario Association of Childrens Aid Societies (OACAS)																																
Police		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X																				
Ministry of Education																																
Municipal Sector																																
Housing Access Centre	X																						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

*Dr. Miller* *TR*

	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
Ministry of the Solicitor General																			X							X	
Ministry of Attorney General																			X		X			X			
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing																								X			
Ministry of Community and Social Services	X		X	X	X		X															X					X
Chief Coroner's Office																											
Government of Ontario		X					X			X	X	X	X	X	X											X	
Ontario Womens Directorate																											
Crown Attorneys																											
Government of Canada																	X	X									X
The John Howard Society											X																
Ministry of Correctional Services																						X					
Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH)									X																		
Ontario Association of Childrens Aid Societies (OACAS)									X																		
Police																											
Ministry of Education								X																			
Municipal Sector										X	X	X	X	X													
Housing Access Centre																											

D. B. Allen 

## Crown Attorneys

8. We recommend that the Criminal Law Division form a training faculty of experts, including Victim/Witness Assistance Program, to advise and train Crown Attorneys on issues related to domestic violence and bail hearings, and that these training initiatives include monitoring and evaluation.

## Bail

9. We recommend that the Ministry of the Solicitor General direct all police services by written policy that release directly from a police service with undertakings and conditions on charges stemming from an incident of domestic violence is not an acceptable practice.
10. We recommend that the Criminal Code be amended to require a reverse onus bail hearing in every domestic violence arrest situation.
11. We recommend that police services establish a victim bail notification system that will inform victims as to the date and time of the accused's bail hearing.
12. We recommend that the Ministry of the Attorney General work with the Ministry of the Solicitor General to develop a specialized domestic violence bail program. Components would include a designated specially-trained Crown Attorney and police officer in each court jurisdiction to:
  - Be contacts for other Crown Attorneys and police officers
  - Provide guidance, and
  - Provide other strategic advice on bail hearings.
13. We recommend that properly staffed and accessible court facilities be open to enable bail hearings on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and that there be a domestic violence Crown attorney available to the court on those days.
14. We recommend that if complainants can show the court reasons why their safety is or would be in jeopardy, bail should be withheld.
15. We recommend that any accused who breaches bail conditions be held in custody until trial.
16. We recommend that the Ministry of the Attorney General conduct a review of the surety system with a view to making improvements that would provide for the safety of women and children in domestic violence cases and create consequences for sureties who fail to comply with supervision responsibilities.
17. We recommend that the Ministry of the Attorney General develop a brochure, to be distributed in court, outlining the role and responsibilities of a surety.

## Courts

18. We recommend that the Ministry of the Attorney General review the criminal justice process for prosecution of domestic violence cases, in both the special domestic violence courts and regular criminal courts, to develop ways in which to shorten the time delays between bail hearings and trials, thus reducing the risk to victims of intimate partner abuse.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink are located at the bottom right of the page. The first signature is a cursive name, and the second is a stylized, more abstract signature.



## IMPLEMENTATION

1. We recommend that an implementation committee be established by the Government of Ontario, consisting of government and non-government representatives, to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the inquest into the deaths of Gillian Hadley and Ralph Hadley, the inquest into the deaths of Arlene May and Randy Iles, and the recommendations arising out of the report by the Joint Committee on Domestic Violence to the Attorney General of Ontario entitled "Working Toward a Seamless Community and Justice Response to Domestic Violence: a Five Year Plan in Ontario".
  - We also recommend that half of this Implementation Committee be chosen from community-based women's and children's advocates and survivors of violence, as well as other community-based representatives with expertise on issues of domestic violence, who are representatives of diverse communities in Ontario; and that OAITH, the John Howard Society and representatives of the subsidized housing sector be included in this group.
  - And further, that the work of the Implementation Committee be funded and not time limited, and that it continue until the Committee is satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented across the province.

## JUSTICE

### Police

2. We recommend that the Ministry of the Solicitor General conduct audits of police services to monitor compliance with the *Model Police Response to Domestic Violence*.
3. We recommend that the Ministry of the Solicitor General enhance the curriculum for recruit training at the Ontario Police College in order to produce a qualified domestic violence investigator at graduation in every case. No fewer than forty (40) hours should be spent on domestic violence investigative training.
4. We recommend that the Ministry of the Solicitor General emphasize the importance of and encourage police services to use the Domestic Violence Supplementary Report Form when investigating domestic violence incidents.
5. We recommend that the police services examine the use of continuously repeating audible signals on their in-car computer terminals.

*Rationale: The police officer responding to the 911 call on June 20, 2000 had difficulty hearing radio messages because of an audible signal emanating from the vehicle's computer terminal.*

6. We recommend that police services change the classification of complaints status on domestic violence call assignments as recorded on the CAD System in order that police response is "without delay".
7. We recommend that investigating officers who respond to domestic violence complaints conduct their investigations without requiring the complainant to obtain statements from others or to gather evidence as a means of completing the investigation.

*Dr. B. L. ...* *JAR*

## Family Law

19. We recommend that the Ministry of the Attorney General develop an expedited court procedure for the screening and processing of family law court cases where either child abuse or exposure to violence by children has been identified, and that the development of any such procedure must include consultation and ongoing involvement of both abused women's advocates and children's advocates, as well as family law legal experts.
20. We recommend that the *Children's Law Reform Act* "best interests of the child" test be amended to direct courts to consider the impact of domestic violence on children when custody and access are being determined.
21. We recommend that the Ministry of the Attorney General create processes for coordination between the criminal and family law systems which would provide for the reconciling of criminal and civil orders in cases of domestic violence, and specifically to ensure that no-contact protection orders, criminal or civil, take precedence over family law orders until such time as safety mechanisms can be put in place to protect women and children threatened by violence.

## JUSTICE – OTHER

22. We recommend that the Government of Ontario coordinate and streamline the delivery of victim services/advocacy within the justice system in order to avoid confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of those involved, and to avoid duplication of services.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### Housing

*Rationale for recommendations 23 – 30: The prevention of a reoccurrence of domestic violence generally involves keeping the accused away from the complainant. While it is unfair that the complainant should have to move in order to achieve this separation, this is often the only practical way. It is important that there be suitable safe temporary accommodation immediately available as well as long term assistance in the form of subsidized housing. The present long wait for housing is unacceptable.*

23. We recommend that the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada immediately provide new funding for developing additional permanent subsidized housing units and "second stage" subsidized housing units (i.e. medium-term housing with supportive counseling and advocacy services) sufficient to meet the current and forecast needs for subsidized housing in each community of Ontario.
24. We recommend that the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada ensure that an adequate number of the subsidized housing units be equipped to accommodate applicants, and/or their children, with disabilities.
25. We recommend that the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada consult with municipalities of Ontario to devise changes in laws or policies that could facilitate the development of additional subsidized housing units – e.g. taxation deductions, funding incentives, etc.



26. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) consult immediately with representatives of subsidized housing applicants/occupants, subsidized housing providers, coordinated housing access centres, community service counseling agencies and other professionals with appropriate knowledge of domestic violence issues, to determine whether the "90 days from separation" eligibility requirement for the Special Priority Housing Category ("abuse priority category") should be amended or abolished. Such consultations should give regard to, among other things, the most current data on the time period of the risk of violence following the date of separation from an abuser, as well as the existing and forecast supply of subsidized housing units. This issue should be reviewed periodically to ensure that at all times it accurately reflects the current data and circumstances.
27. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) require Service Managers to ensure that all housing providers and coordinated housing access centres maintain a transparent complaint process for subsidized housing applicants, and provide to all applicants at the time of initial contact a written copy of the complaint process, similar to the letter describing the right of appeal that is currently provided to applicants by Housing Access Centre (Durham Region).
28. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) conduct, or ensure that the Service Managers under the *Social Housing Reform Act* and regulations (also known as Bill 128) conduct periodic and/or random operational audits of providers of subsidized housing and coordinated access centres in Ontario with a view to ensuring that they are administering the abuse priority criteria in accordance with the legal requirements.
29. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) create a committee or forum for representatives of subsidized housing applicant/occupants, Service Managers, housing providers and coordinated housing access centres to discuss issues relating to the provision of subsidized housing across Ontario. The Government of Ontario should use the information obtained through such discussions for the purpose of considering amendments to the *Social Housing Reform Act* and regulations on an ongoing basis. Such changes of law and policy must be communicated promptly and clearly to all organizations who are involved in these services.
30. We recommend that in addition to the education and training currently provided to them by coordinated housing access centres such as Housing Access Centres (Durham Region), and "third party" organizations (e.g. Victim Witness Assistance Program) should immediately, and on an ongoing basis, ensure that all of their case workers and counselors know and understand the criteria which must be verified for an individual to qualify for the abuse priority category for subsidized housing.

### Income Support

31. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Community and Social Services) review the social assistance rates under the *Ontario Works Act* and create a mechanism to provide for the adjustment of said rates to reflect the actual needs of recipients as they may be affected by the social and economic environment for the particular geographic location where they reside.

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink are located at the bottom right of the page. The first signature is a cursive name, and the second is a more stylized, possibly illegible signature.

32. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Community and Social Services) increase the *Ontario Works Act* housing allowance for women and children fleeing abusive relationships in order to enable them to enter the market rental housing sector in communities where there is a demonstrated insufficiency of available social housing units to accommodate their needs within a reasonable period of time.
33. We recommend that the Government of Ontario amend *Ontario Works Act* guidelines to include allocation of funds to women and children escaping abuse to ensure coverage of moving costs beyond current levels of allowed "start-up" funding, including costs for those who must move outside their local community.
34. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Community and Social Services) amend the *Ontario Works Act*, regulations and policy directives in order to provide that for women and children fleeing abusive relationships who are applicants or recipients of social assistance there is an automatic deferral of all mandatory *Ontario Works* participation requirements for six months.
35. We recommend that the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Community and Social Services) require that all delivery agents of *Ontario Works Act* social assistance establish a local response for the expedited intake of applicants who are fleeing situations of domestic violence.
36. We recommend that all income support screening units be required to use a standard questionnaire or format when taking calls in order to ascertain whether the caller is experiencing domestic violence and requires expedited access to financial resources.

#### **Community Based Services For Women**

37. We recommend that there be a program of government funded independent trained advocates for abused women, both inside and outside of the criminal justice system.
38. We recommend that the Government of Ontario, through its various ministries but in particular the Ministry of Community and Social Services, ensure that all community-based women's anti-violence services, including shelters, are appropriately funded.

#### **Community Based Services For Children**

39. We recommend that the Government of Ontario, through either the Ministry of Community and Social Services or the Ministry of Education, provide specific funding through community and women's services and school boards, for safe travel to and from school for all children exposed to violence.

*Rationale: So that no woman feels unable to leave an abusive situation and seek shelter because of concerns about disruption of her children's schooling.*

40. We recommend that the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) and Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Community and Social Services develop a specific response within child protection services across the province to child welfare reports and cases in which child exposure to domestic violence has been identified; and further:
- That the Ministry of Community and Social Services ensure that appropriate and adequate funding is allocated to both the violence against women sector and the child welfare sector for training, implementation and ongoing operation of the specific response in cases of domestic violence.

*D. Blum* 

## Community Based Services For Men

41. We recommend that all jurisdictions have available a program similar to that of DADS of Durham to assist parents to cope with the stress of family breakups.

*Rationale: Programs like DADS recognize the fact that men continue to be responsible for parenting children notwithstanding marital breakdown. These programs provide additional services and supports specific to the needs of the male partner.*

42. We recommend that all Community based counseling programs (e.g. anger management programs) include screening procedures during the intake process to ensure that participants enroll in programs appropriate to their needs. The screening process should ensure that an individual in need of abuser/batterer programs and/or psychiatric or medical help is referred to appropriate programs and services. There should also be funding to ensure that sufficient specialized programs exist in each community so that proper referrals can be made.

43. We recommend that the post-conviction limitations imposed by the Government of Ontario regarding admission to many programs for abusers must be changed to allow for voluntary, community referred as well as court mandated admissions for abusers.

*Rationale: Individuals in need of this kind of counseling should not have to be convicted first before they can get help.*

44. We recommend that specialized programs aimed at providing counseling to abusers include risk assessment procedures to determine, if possible, the degree of risk that the abuser poses to the abused partner.
45. We recommend that all batterers counseling programs be extended to permit a minimum counseling period of 52 weeks.

## Education, Training and Prevention Programs

46. We recommend that the Ontario Women's Directorate continue to work with community organizations and experts in the field of domestic violence to identify and promote public education messages and initiatives that would best improve public understanding of issues relating to women's safety.
47. We recommend that the Government of Ontario, in collaboration with frontline women's and children's advocates in the field of women's shelters, fund the development of a public education campaign with the goal of making both the public and abused women aware of the children's programs and supports within women's shelters across Ontario to allay the fears of women who delay or decline using women's emergency shelters.

## Workplace Safety

48. We recommend that all employment related legislation, including the *Employment Standards Act*, the *Human Rights Code*, the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, and the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* be reviewed and amended to ensure that:
- violence is defined to include harassment, stalking and threats of violence;
  - women experiencing violence in an intimate or personal relationship may take a leave of absence sufficient to address the violence in the relationship and establish themselves and their children in a safe place without fear of losing their employment or fear of experiencing some other employment related reprisal.



### Coordination of Services and Shared Information

49. We recommend that the Government of Ontario examine the issue of client confidentiality and personal privacy issues with respect to the sharing of information and coordination of services and determine if the *Freedom of Information Act* and *Protection of Privacy Act/Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* require legislative amendments to permit such disclosure to take place where a client is a victim of domestic violence.
50. We recommend that local domestic violence coordinating committees be established in every jurisdiction in the Province of Ontario with a view to coordinating services not just for those matters that enter the justice system but to coordinate services for all victims of domestic violence, including the indirect victims of domestic violence such as children.
51. We recommend that the Government of Ontario create a provincial coordinating committee comprised of Government and non-Government representatives to assist in coordinating province-wide services to all victims of domestic violence, as well as to set standards and best practices.
52. We recommend that the Government of Ontario organize and coordinate provincial and regional inter-sectoral conferences or symposia on domestic violence within the next six months.

### Research, Analysis and Reporting

53. We recommend that the Government of Ontario investigate and consider the use of electronic monitoring technology that involves a global positioning system for not only parole but also in the instance of bail for those who are charged with domestic violence offenses.
54. We recommend that the office of the Chief Coroner establish a Domestic Violence Death Review Committee comprised of specialists and experts to assist the Coroner's Office in the investigation of suspicious deaths which occur within an intimate relationship.
55. We recommend that the Ministry of the Attorney General commission and underwrite research to study the effects of the initiatives associated with the domestic violence specialized courts to ascertain whether they assist in reducing domestic violence. The results of the studies and analysis should be made available to the public.
56. We recommend that the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of the Attorney General develop and support approved ongoing research analyzing the effectiveness of domestic violence risk assessment tools and treatment.
57. We recommend that the Government of Ontario and Government of Canada develop a database of those individuals who have not necessarily been convicted but have had arrests and charges laid with respect to domestic violence.

*Rationale: This would facilitate cooperation and sharing of information between jurisdictions.*

58. We recommend that the Chief Coroner's Office provide a progress report one year following the release of this jury's recommendations.



Verdict Explanation  
Inquest into the deaths of Gillian and Ralph Hadley  
Date of Inquest October 22, 2001-February 8, 2002  
Inquest Courts  
Toronto

I intend to give a brief synopsis of issues presented at this inquest . I would like to stress that much of this will be my interpretation of the evidence and also my interpretation of the jury's reasons. The sole purpose for this is to assist the reader to more fully understand the verdict and recommendations of the jury and is not intended to be considered as actual evidence presented at the inquest. It is in no way intended to replace the jury's verdict.

Background information:

Gillian (35 years of age) and Ralph Hadley (34 years of age) were estranged at the time of their deaths on June 20,2000 in Pickering Ontario.

They had known each other since public school. Their parents were close friends since Gillian and Ralph's childhood and continued that friendship following their subsequent marriage, estrangement and deaths.

Gillian married in 1987 and had two children (born in 1992 and 1993). As a result of an intrauterine hemorrhage, the second child was severely handicapped and required constant care. In 1996 Gillian and her first husband separated. Gillian retained custody of the children and their father was granted generous access.

Ralph had been enamoured with Gillian since high school, having asked her out a number of times. She had always refused. Following the end of her first marriage, they began to date.

Their relationship progressed quickly and Ralph began living with Gillian and her two children. In July of 1997, Gillian and Ralph purchased a house with Ralph's cousin and lived there together until the events of January 2000. The cousin lived in the basement and Gillian and Ralph occupied the main floor.

Gillian and Ralph were married in October of 1997 following her divorce from her first husband.

Because of the fragile nature of Gillian's child there were multiple surgeries and visits to the Hospital for Sick Children. During one of these visits a report was made to the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect( SCAN) unit at the hospital. A number of unexplained bruises were found on the child. An investigation was conducted and the findings were determined to be inconclusive.

A second report was made to the SCAN unit and the investigation resulted in the Durham Children's Aid Society obtaining temporary custody of the child. The child was placed in the care of his natural father. In April of 1999, as a result of the subsequent police investigation, Ralph was charged with Criminal Negligence Causing Bodily Harm.

Gillian initially supported Ralph and believed him to be innocent of the charges. She was pregnant with Ralph's child during this time. She gave birth in June of 1999 as the charges were proceeding through the courts. As a result of these charges, the newborn child was added to the supervision order of the Children's Aid Society and Ralph's access to his own child was restricted, requiring the presence of another adult.

As a result of these stresses and financial difficulties Gillian sought counseling. Gillian wanted her disabled child back and began to doubt Ralph's innocence. When in December of 1999, he accepted a peace bond to resolve the criminal negligence charge rather than pursuing the matter through the courts, Gillian's support of him and the desire to continue the marriage ended.

Gillian began a relationship with another man and Ralph found them together. In January of 2000 Ralph assaulted Gillian at this man's residence. The assault included a slap across the face and Ralph allegedly banged Gillian's head against a brick wall. He forced her into the car and as he left to return to the house to gather information for his lawyer, she escaped and called for help.

As a result of this incident, Ralph was charged with Assault and Breach of Recognizance (re: the peace bond). He was released on a Promise to Appear with an undertaking before the officer in charge. He was to stay away from the marital home, and the involved persons and their residences.

Over the next few months Ralph broke the conditions of his release. He called Gillian frequently, entered the house through his cousin's apartment and tried to enter the main floor of the residence using his key. The locks had been changed and as a result of this incident Gillian filed a report of an attempted break and enter.



Gillian complained to the Durham Regional Police about Ralph's ongoing behaviour. She gave a report to a police officer and was asked to obtain written statements from other witnesses. She did so and on February 25, 2000 he was contacted and asked to attend at the police station. He was arrested and charged with Criminal Harassment, Breach of an Undertaking and Breach of Recognizance. He was held for a bail hearing.

On February 28, 2000 following a contested reverse onus hearing, he was released on a Recognizance of Bail with the following conditions:

- a \$5000.00 surety guaranteed by his parents
- a weapon prohibition
- he was to reside with his parents
- he was to notify Durham Regional Police of any change in residence
- he was not to possess a cell phone
- he was to abstain from contacting Gillian and number of her relatives directly or indirectly
- he was to stay out of Pickering except to traverse via GO Train or the Highway 401
- he was not to be away from his residence except for employment or while under the supervision of an adult family member
- he was not to go anywhere where Gillian might be
- he was not to use the telephone at his place of employment except for employment purposes, to call his surety or in the case of an emergency

Ralph is now known to have breached these conditions without the knowledge of his surety.

As a result of the involvement with the Children's Aid Society, Ralph was encouraged to take anger management counseling. Between February and June of 2000 he attended an Anger Management Program sponsored by the John Howard Society. Ralph denied that he had a problem. He saw himself as a victim even though he essentially admitted that he was guilty of the allegations against him.

While attending these sessions and his court proceedings, Ralph was receiving information about Gillian's activities from his cousin and members of her family. Ralph was also hearing from those closest to him and at his place of employment that shooting Gillian would solve his problems.

During this time Gillian was trying to find alternate housing in the Durham Region. She was on the priority waiting list given her circumstances, but the

waiting list was long and she had specific requirements for her children, including proximity to school and the disabilities of her middle child.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> Ralph called in sick but attended his place of employment to clean out his locker and pay off his debts. The next morning he made his bed appear as if he were still sleeping, called a cab and was taken to the street behind the house where Gillian was living- their marital home. He carried with him a gym bag containing a number of items to gain control of Gillian. It is believed that he entered through a bedroom window after Gillian's eldest child left for school.

Gillian escaped from the home through the front door and was seen to be running naked through the street outside the home. A passing motorist stopped to help her. She was unable to get into the vehicle as Ralph grabbed her. She retreated to the house and Ralph followed her.

Neighbours hearing and seeing the disturbance called 911. It was reported that a male had taken a naked female into a residence. Before the police arrived a number of neighbours attended the residence, knocked on the door. Ralph opened the door and Gillian, holding their young child tried to escape. As she tumbled out the door a neighbour grabbed the child. Ralph was able to regain control of Gillian by showing a gun and the neighbours momentarily retreated. The door closed and a shot was heard. A short time later the neighbours heard another shot.

The Durham Regional Police Tactical Team entered the home a few hours later to find Gillian in the front foyer of the home and Ralph dead in the master bedroom. Both died as a result of gunshot wounds to the head.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

## Inquest

The inquest took place between October 22, 2001 and February 8, 2002 at the Coroners Courts in Toronto.

Counsel to the Coroner:	Mr. A.O'Marra Ms. Lori Hamilton
Investigating Officers:	Det. Insp. A.Bush( Case Manager) Det. Constable Mark Collins Senior Constable Paul Coolidge Ontario Provincial Police
Coroners Constable:	Const. E. Drummond
Court Reporter;	Mrs. L. Retzer (416)266-3323

### Parties with Standing

Durham Children's Aid Society  
Housing Access Centre  
Regional Municipality of Durham  
John Howard Society  
Ministry of Correctional Services  
Fathers Are Capable Too:  
Parenting Association  
(F.A.C.T.)  
Ontario Association of Interval  
and Transition Houses  
Durham Regional Police Service  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
Hadley Family  
McLean Family

### Counsel

Mr. M. Hartrick  
Mr. P. Pliszka  
Mr. M .Gaskell  
Ms. J. Holland  
Mr. B. Whitehead/Ms. Ofiara  
  
Mr. W. Fox  
  
Ms. G. Sanson  
Mr. B. Fazackerly  
Mr. T. Marshall

The jury heard 39 days of evidence from 60 witnesses addressing issues such as: the response of the criminal justice system to the incidents between Gillian and Ralph, the role of community support services (children's aid services and counseling services), housing issues and income support.

The jury heard from persons who knew Gillian and Ralph- family, friends, coworkers; from police, lawyers and counselors who became involved in the violence and responded to it; from lawyers involved in the child protection and family law issues; from experts in domestic violence, behaviour and risk assessment, and housing; and, about the importance of research and evaluation. Evidence was also given about the responses to the recommendations of a 1998 inquest into a similar incident of domestic violence.

Two hundred and forty two exhibits were entered for their review.

The Jury delivered a verdict of homicide/suicide and made 58 recommendations. The recommendations are self-explanatory.

Should additional information or clarification be required please contact me.

**In closing, I would like to stress once again that this document was prepared solely for the purpose of assisting interested parties in understanding the jury verdict. It is worth repeating that it is not the verdict. Likewise many of the comments regarding the evidence are my personal recollection of the same and are not put forth as actual evidence. IF any party feels that I made a gross error in my recollection of the evidence, it would be greatly appreciated if it could be brought to my attention and I will gladly correct the error.**



**Dr. Bonita Porter  
B.Sc.Ph.m., M.Sc., M.D., C.C.F.P.  
Presiding Coroner  
Deputy Chief Coroner of Inquests**