

Ministry of the Solicitor General

**Office of the Chief Coroner
Ontario Forensic Pathology Service**

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Ministère du Solliciteur général

**Bureau du coroner en chef
Service de médecine légale de l'Ontario**

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C25-147A

September 22, 2025

Numair Uppal
Executive Director
Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services (OASIS)
4815 Rathkeale Road
Mississauga, ON L5V 1K3

Via email: numair.uppal@oasisontario.on.ca

Dear Mr. Uppal:

Re: Chief Coroner Review: Request for Response to Recommendations

A Chief Coroner Review was undertaken to learn from the circumstances of the tragic death of a 26 month-old child to inform potential recommendations to prevent further deaths. Please find a copy of the report of the Chief Coroner Review attached.

As a result of this review, the Office of the Chief Coroner has provided recommendations to organizations believed to be in a position to implement.

Recommendation(s) directed to your organization:

9. Work together to collaboratively develop and widely distribute best practice safety expectations for septic tank installation and pumping including:
 - a. A standard inspection checklist, including location specific considerations, e.g., licenced child care settings
 - b. Secure closure of septic tank access points
 - c. Importance of secondary safety devices being present and properly installed
 - d. Inspection of septic tank lid screws and screw holes to ensure that they can be adequately secured and are not damaged
 - e. Any existing safety concerns to be communicated in writing to the property owner, before leaving the site, for resolution, and

- f. Significant septic tank safety concerns should be reported to the Chief Building Officer at the relevant municipality, and/or the local public health unit in locations without a Chief Building Officer.
10. Work collaboratively to create and implement a public awareness campaign that leverages existing public education resources and pamphlets about septic tank maintenance and safety that can be widely distributed to municipalities, homeowners, not-for-profit organizations, and businesses.
- With family consent, the campaign could include sharing of the tragic circumstances provided in the Report of the Chief Coroner Review to raise awareness about and promote septic tank safety.
 - Explore funding opportunities to support the campaign in achieving public safety awareness.
11. Consider leveraging the existing Septic Awareness Week to promote regular safety checks of septic tank access points and secondary safety catches, e.g., like public reminders about checking smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
12. Work together to consider the establishment of a new licensing regime for septic pumpers and haulers in Ontario to support the establishment of professional standards to promote public safety.
- Professional standards could support:
 - Approach to education and training,
 - Adherence to safety standards,
 - Performance expectations,
 - Accountability, and
 - Complaint mechanisms.

We kindly request your response to the recommendation by **March 30, 2026**. The *Coroners Act* does not provide authority to require a response to recommendations

We trust the recommendations will be given careful consideration for implementation and, if not implemented, that your organization will provide an explanation. Please be advised that your response will be considered a public document and will be released upon request.

Please direct your response to:

Rose Jumarang, Sr. Divisional Coordinator

Office of the Chief Coroner
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Email: rose.jumarang@ontario.ca

If you feel these recommendations have been directed to you incorrectly, we would welcome your suggestions on where to direct them.

Thank you for participating in this important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DH' with a stylized flourish.

Dirk Huyer, MD
Chief Coroner for Ontario

DH/rj

Cc: Kevin Dolderman, kboss8036@gmail.com

Enclosure: **Chief Coroner Review Report**