



18-YEAR-OLD LUCIAN

AN INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta
March 2026

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Under my authority and duty as identified in Section 9(2)(d) of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act (CYAA)*, the following is an individual investigative review regarding Lucian. His circumstances meet the criteria for a **systemic review**. Lucian and his family had received Child Intervention through an Assessment within two years of his passing.

Investigative reviews are designed to improve the lives of young people by identifying ways to enhance services and supports, leading to system improvements and better outcomes for young people and their families. Releasing individual reviews ensures that each young person's circumstance is reported in a consistent manner and provides increased transparency and public accountability. I believe that this is in the public interest. I will review and report annually on themes identified across the investigative reviews and include recommendations.

The investigation process includes:

- Examination of critical issues
- Review of documentation and reports
- Review of policy and casework practice
- Personal interviews
- Other factors that may arise for consideration
- Notification and involvement of the young person's family, Band, Delegated First Nation Agency, community or cultural group, relevant Ministry, law enforcement agency, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Alberta Health Services, and any other person the Advocate considers appropriate.

In accordance with the *CYAA*, investigative reviews must be non-identifying. Therefore, the names used in these reports are pseudonyms (false names). Great care has been taken to protect their privacy; however, there is no guarantee that interested parties will be unable to identify them. Accordingly, readers and interested parties, including the media, should respect this privacy and not focus on identifying the individuals and locations involved in these matters.

Investigative reviews do not contain findings of legal responsibility or conclusions of law nor replace other processes that may occur, such as investigations or prosecutions under the *Criminal Code* of Canada. The intent of a review is not to find fault with specific individuals but to identify key issues and meaningful findings.

Lucian's experiences were unique, and he left a lasting impression on those who knew and loved him. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and those who cared about Lucian.

Respectfully,

[Original signed by Terri Pelton]

Terri Pelton

Child and Youth Advocate (Alberta)

ABOUT LUCIAN AND HIS FAMILY

Lucian¹ was 18 years old when he passed away in hospital from complications related to leukemia. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is not investigating his death. Lucian and his family had received Child Intervention through an **Assessment**² within two years of his passing.

Lucian was a social, young First Nation man with an easygoing personality. He enjoyed dirt biking, fishing, and camping. He loved playing guitar and video games with friends. Lucian planned to pursue a career in the trades.

Lucian was Mira and Arden's only child. They separated when he was young, and he had limited contact with his father.

SUMMARY OF LUCIAN'S EXPERIENCES WITH GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Lucian from Birth to 16 Years Old

Lucian was born in another province, and little is known about his circumstances while there. When he was five years old, he moved to Alberta with his mother and had limited systems involvement.

Lucian received routine medical care for minor illness and injuries. At six years old, he began elementary school and was an average student. When he was 10 years old, Mira and Lucian moved to another community. Over the following two years, Child Intervention received two reports about neglect related to Lucian being left home alone. The concerns were not substantiated and involvements ended.

When Lucian was 13 years old, the COVID-19 public health measures were put in place, and school transitioned to online learning. His attendance declined, and he did not receive supports to address barriers. The following year, in-person learning resumed, and his attendance improved. Lucian was enrolled in welding and carpentry classes, and teachers noted that he excelled in them.

When Lucian was 15 years old, Child Intervention received a report about physical and emotional injury related to Mira's substance use, Lucian being provided alcohol and a physical altercation between them. Arrangements were made for him to temporarily stay with a friend. Lucian said that he had thoughts of self-harm; he was offered mental health support but declined. Mira refused to engage in further planning, and soon after,

Lucian returned home. It was determined that the conflict between them had resolved and involvement ended; the concerns for substance use were not addressed, and a safety plan was not developed.

That same year, Lucian's school attendance declined and he soon stopped attending; he did not receive additional supports to engage him in his education.

Lucian from 17 to 18 Years Old

At 17 years old, Lucian went to a local community health center because he often felt fatigued, had difficulty eating and had a sore throat. He was assessed and transferred to a specialized children's hospital, where he remained for approximately five weeks and diagnosed with a treatable form of leukemia. Doctors explained his diagnosis and treatment plan, which involved various medical procedures and chemotherapy. Mira and Lucian had difficulty remembering and articulating his treatment plan and hospital staff frequently met with them to review it, answer their questions and provided written information.

Medical staff often spoke with Lucian about his well-being, offered emotional support and incorporated his perspective into planning and decision-making. After Lucian had several rounds of chemotherapy; he said that he disliked how it made him feel and did not want to continue. He was offered medication to help with his symptoms, mental health support and alternative testing options, but he declined.

While Lucian was hospitalized, Child Intervention received a report about medical neglect; Mira was reluctant to consent to essential medical treatments. The Joint Protocol for Complex Medical Decision Making was not initiated. Mira refused to speak with caseworkers and subsequently consented to the medical care Lucian required. Caseworkers did not pursue contact with Lucian because the concern was addressed and they did not want to disturb him while he was undergoing treatment. Hospital staff told Lucian that he could reach out to caseworkers if he wanted, but he declined. Shortly after, Lucian turned 18 years old and intervention involvement ended.

Lucian's leukemia went into remission, and he told hospital staff that he wanted to go home. A discharge plan was developed that included medications, treatments and follow up appointments. Before being discharged, Mira and Lucian received hands-on training about how to administer his medications and information about the risks of not following his outpatient treatment plan. While hospitalized, he finished a high school course and he enrolled in an outreach program when he was discharged; however, it does not appear that he regularly attended.

Over the following month, Lucian inconsistently took his medication and was hospitalized twice for treatments. He was discharged with home care services to assist with

1. All names in the report are pseudonyms.
2. Bolded terms are defined in Appendix A.

administering his medication. Soon after, he stopped attending follow up appointments and did not take his medication regularly. Attempts by medical staff to contact him were unsuccessful.

Eighteen-year-old Lucian went to a local community health center because he felt ill and had pain. He was given medication and encouraged to follow up with the cancer clinic, but he refused. The following week, his symptoms worsened and he was taken to hospital where it was determined that his leukemia had returned. The next day, he was transferred to the intensive care unit and received comfort care. Lucian passed away with Mira and family members at his bedside. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is not investigating his death. A funeral was held in his honour, and he is deeply missed by those who knew and loved him.

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Birth to 16 Years Old	17 to 18 Years Old
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth – 4 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Lived outside of Alberta• 5 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Parents separated· Moved to Alberta• 6 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Started elementary school• 11 – 12 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Child Intervention involved 2 times• 13 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· COVID-19 public health measures<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Virtual learning• 15 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Child Intervention involvement<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Used substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Hospitalized<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Diagnosed with leukemia· Testing and treatment· Leukemia in remission· Discharged· Outpatient treatment and supports· Child Intervention involvement• 18 Years Old<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Hospitalized<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Leukemia returned· Intensive care unit· Comfort care <p>18-year-old Lucian passed away</p>

FINDINGS

Children and Family Services

When Lucian was between 15 and 17 years old, Child Intervention was involved twice. The first involvement ended without an assessment of Mira and Lucian's substance use or the development of a safety plan to mitigate concerns. During the second involvement, the immediate concern was resolved when consent for the required medical treatment was obtained; however, the Joint Protocol for Complex Medical Decision Making was not initiated and there was limited consideration of the ongoing need to follow through with treatments. Accessing the protocol may have assisted with planning and decision making to inform services.

Health

Lucian received routine medical care for minor illnesses. After he was hospitalized with leukemia, health professionals made extensive efforts to help him and his mother understand his diagnosis and follow his treatment plan. They regularly checked in with them and offered emotional and mental health support.

When Lucian refused testing and treatments, comprehensive efforts were made to understand his perspective and alter his treatment plan to accommodate him. Lucian's voice was often incorporated into planning and decision-making. However, the Joint Protocol for Complex Medical Decision Making was not initiated, which supports professionals in making complex decisions when there is disagreement between parents and the medical team, coordinate supports and guides collaboration and decision-making with Children and Family Services. Accessing the protocol may have assisted with planning and decision-making.

Education

Lucian was an average student and attended regularly throughout elementary school. In junior high school, the COVID-19 public health measures were put in place and school transitioned to online learning. His attendance declined and he received limited supports to engage him in his education. When in-person school resumed, Lucian's attendance improved. By Grade 10 his attendance became irregular and he stopped going. Lucian would have benefited from increased efforts to engage him in his education.

THEMES TO TRACK

1. Assessment

When Lucian was between 15 and 17 years old, a robust assessment of his needs and his parent's capacity to provide care was required.

2. Health services

After Lucian's leukemia diagnosis, health professionals provided flexible and comprehensive support that was tailored to his unique needs.

3. Participation of young people

Health professionals incorporated Lucian's perspective into planning and decision-making.

4. Case planning

The Joint Protocol for Complex Medical Decision Making between Health and Children and Family services was not initiated, which may have assisted with planning and decision-making regarding Lucian's needs.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Assessment

The gathering and analysis of information to determine whether a child is in need of intervention under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

Systemic Review

Under the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, the Advocate may conduct a public review when a young person is seriously injured or dies while (or within two years of) receiving designated services (*Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* intakes, assessments, post-18 supports, was in open or closed custody under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and/or involvement under the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act*) to determine if systemic issues are present.

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