

SEPTEMBER 6, 1995 — UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS
TO RESUSCITATE DUDLEY GEORGE

**18.1 Dudley George is Transported to Strathroy Hospital
by His Siblings and a Teenager**

As I discuss in Chapter 14, fourteen-year-old J.T. Cousins was in Ipperwash Provincial Park on the evening of September 6. He saw the police in “riot gear” approach the park in formation, with shields and batons. He also witnessed the altercation between the OPP and Cecil Bernard George in the sandy parking lot.

J.T. Cousins was also in the sandy parking lot when the OPP started to fire their guns at the occupiers and he watched Dudley George fall to the ground after he was shot. With Dudley’s brother Pierre and sister Carolyn, he drove with Dudley George to Strathroy Hospital. J.T. Cousins sat in the back seat of the car with Dudley, applying pressure to lessen the bleeding from his fatal wounds.

What follows is a description of the trip with Dudley George to Strathroy Hospital on the night of September 6.

Carolyn George had been cooking a meal in the kitchen in the built-up area. She drove to the park after dark to offer food to her son, Glen (Bressette), and to her brother Dudley. Robert Isaac approached them soon after her arrival and said they “needed help” and “more guys” because “something was happening.” Carolyn George then saw police officers in the sandy parking lot march “shoulder to shoulder” toward the fence of the park.

Carolyn George quickly decided to return to the built-up area to get help for the occupiers at the park. She approached the main gate of the army camp and saw Marlene Cloud sitting on a curb, “all pale and shaken up.” She did not see any men present. On Carolyn’s suggestion, Ms. Cloud got into her car; they saw a dump truck head toward the park and they then drove in the direction of the park.

Fourteen-year-old J.T. Cousins was at the park and heard shots fired. J.T. Cousins saw Dudley George fall to the ground and struggle to rise. He ran into the parking lot and watched other Aboriginal men rush to Dudley, pick him up, and carry him into the park.

The men placed Dudley George into the “OPP WHO” car. J.T. Cousins immediately climbed into the back seat because he “was scared for Dudley.” The fourteen-year-old applied pressure to Dudley’s wounds, which J.T. described as

below his heart. Robert Isaac and Clayton George drove them to the barracks through the inner road parallel to Army Camp Road.

As mentioned, David George placed a 911 call from the pay phone in the park. He told the 911 operator that two people had been shot and he asked for ambulances. That 911 call was received at approximately 11:12 p.m. by Wallaceburg Ambulance Communications Centre and communicated to ambulance dispatch. David George hung up before the operator, police, or ambulance dispatchers could determine the precise location from which he called, and no ambulance was dispatched.

As they drove to the barracks, Dudley George was struggling to breathe but appeared to be conscious:

He looked at me and he smiled and he was just gasping — like having real long deep breaths of air.

J.T. Cousins was “just hoping that he wasn’t going to die.”

Carolyn George and Marlene Cloud did not make it to the park. Several cars passed them as they travelled on “Inner Drive,” the road parallel to Army Camp Road. Carolyn George decided to turn her car in the opposite direction and followed the cars to the built-up area. As she arrived at the gate to the built-up area, Carolyn was told her brother Dudley had been shot.

By this time, Dudley had been transferred to his brother Pierre’s car. Robert Isaac asked for a woman to accompany Dudley to the hospital, and Carolyn immediately climbed into the passenger seat of Pierre’s white car. When she turned to the back seat, she saw Dudley in an unconscious state. J.T. climbed into the back seat of the car.

As they headed to the highway on the way to Strathroy Hospital, the OPP did not intercept them. Pierre George’s white car did not have a licence plate.

J.T. Cousins did not notice any ambulances in the area as they left the army camp.

Carolyn and Pierre George instructed J.T. to continually talk to Dudley to keep him awake and to try to help him retain consciousness. J.T. tried to keep Dudley in an upright position to prevent him from choking on his blood. He placed pressure on Dudley’s wounds and concentrated on Dudley’s breathing.

J.T. Cousins used his sweater to apply pressure to Dudley’s wounds as they drove to Strathroy Hospital. Dudley started to shake and looked like he was going into deep shock. The fourteen-year-old kept talking to him. He said:

... [H]is eyeballs were going to roll back into the head, and then I’d just tell him, “It’s going to be okay. You’re going to be okay. We’re soon going to be at the hospital. Everything’s going to be okay.”

Dudley George did not say anything to J.T. Cousins. Dudley was struggling to breathe. As J.T. Cousins said, he was “trying to get his air,” he was “like choking on his blood.”

18.2 Arrival at the Farmhouse of Hank Veens — Unexpected Flat Tire

Pierre George travelled at a high speed toward the hospital. They proceeded to Northville Road, and then to Nauvoo Road. The car tire unexpectedly went flat. They pulled into the first farmhouse, owned by Hank Veens and his wife, Mary. Carolyn ran to their door to ask if she could use their phone to call an ambulance for her severely injured brother.

The Veens had been in bed for fifteen to thirty minutes when they heard a car “thumping down the road” and enter their laneway. Hank Veens rolled over and said to his wife, “[T]his car’s got a flat tire.” There was “pounding” on the door. Mr. Veens opened the door and saw Carolyn and Pierre George, who looked anxious. They said their brother had been shot, and they needed an ambulance. Hank Veens ran to his phone and “dialled 911 as quick as possible.”

Mr. Veens, with the assistance of his wife, told the 911 operator that some people had arrived at his home and wanted an ambulance for a person wounded by gunshot. The call was made at 11:27 p.m. He gave his 6840 Nauvoo Road address. The operator asked for the location of the wound, to which Mr. Veens replied: “[I]n the chest, around his heart.” The Veens were assured that an ambulance was “on the way.” They remained on the line with the 911 operator. An ambulance was dispatched to the Veens’ residence at 11:30 p.m. and was en route by 11:33 p.m.

Hank Veens thinks he told Carolyn and Pierre George to park their car at the end of his long laneway to meet the ambulance. Carolyn George confirmed that they went to the road at the end of the Veens’ laneway and “sat there and waited.” Carolyn reminded J.T. Cousins to keep pressure on Dudley’s wounds and not to “let up.” They waited for about five minutes, which “seemed like forever” before deciding to go to the nearest intersection of Nauvoo Road and Egremont Road (also known as County Road 22).

Carolyn George returned to the house a couple of times to ask if the ambulance would soon arrive. Mr. Veens said that the 911 operator had assured him the “ambulance was coming.” Mary Veens gave the George family some ice cubes and clean cloths to apply to Dudley’s gunshot wounds.

Mr. Veens decided to go out to the laneway to ask if he could be of any assistance while the George siblings and J.T. Cousins waited for the ambulance. Mary Veens remained on the telephone with the 911 operator. To Mr. Veens’ surprise,

the white car and its passengers were gone. Approximately twelve minutes had lapsed since Carolyn and Pierre George had knocked on Mr. Veens' door asking for help.

At 11:38 p.m., Mr. Veens returned to his house and told the 911 operator they had left and that "they must be going to the hospital." He assumed the operator would know the car was travelling to Strathroy Hospital as it was the closest hospital from his home, an approximate twenty to twenty-five-minute drive.

After the 11:38 p.m. call with Mr. Veens and ambulance dispatch, the dispatcher, Geoffrey Connors, notified the ambulance that was en route to 6840 Nauvoo Road that the car containing the wounded person had left the Veens' but asked the unit to continue toward Nauvoo Road. Malcolm Gilpin and Cesare DiCesare were in the ambulance. Three minutes later, at 11:41 p.m., Mr. Connors cancelled the ambulance call to Nauvoo Road, and advised Sergeant Cousineau that the vehicle had left the Veens' home. One minute later, at Sergeant Cousineau's request, Mr. Connors called the Veens back to ask whether the people who came to his house had appeared to be armed. Mr. Veens responded that they had not.

Mr. Veens expected the ambulance to arrive at his house within ten minutes. This was based on past experience, when he had called an ambulance for one of his workman who had fallen from a wagon. The ambulance had arrived at his house on Nauvoo Road in about ten minutes. Had the ambulance been dispatched from Watford, Mr. Veens maintains it should have arrived within six or seven minutes. Mr. Veens believes that the travelling time for an ambulance from Forest should have been slightly more than ten minutes.

Carolyn George estimated that the drive to Strathroy Hospital from the army camp was forty-five minutes, and that they had travelled half the distance by the time they reached the Veens' house. They had anxiously waited for about five minutes at the intersection of Nauvoo and Egremont Roads, and then decided they must make their own way to the hospital to try to save Dudley's life:

It was almost like we realized that no one was coming to help. And Dudley was just going to die if we sat there. So we decided to go ahead to at least try and get there. Flat tire or not. ... we didn't want to just sit there and let him die.

Dr. Andrew McCallum, who later reviewed the medical care Dudley George received, concluded that Pierre and Carolyn's decision not to wait for the ambulance and to take their brother directly to the hospital themselves was likely the best decision, under the circumstances. He said that transporting the patient to the

hospital as quickly as possible was the most important consideration, given the nature and severity of Dudley George's injuries.

Pierre George drove toward the hospital in his disabled car. As they approached the Town of Strathroy, Carolyn and Pierre noticed police cars. The OPP followed their car. Although Pierre was anxious, he thought the police would assume they were making their way to the hospital and did not think the police would intervene until they reached their destination. Pierre George continued driving to the emergency entrance of Strathroy Hospital. J.T. Cousins believed at that time that Dudley's heart was still beating.

On the trip to the hospital, Dudley George had been gasping for air. When they arrived at the hospital, Dudley's eyes were rolling around. J.T. continued to reassure Dudley that everything would be okay: "I kept talking to him, telling him it's going to be okay."

18.3 Arrival at Strathroy Hospital and the Arrest of Carolyn George, Pierre George, and J.T. Cousins

As Dudley George's family members were making their harrowing journey to Strathroy Hospital in Pierre George's white car, police officers were converging on the hospital.

At 11:20 p.m., A/D/S/Sgt. Mark Wright instructed Detective Constables Speck and Dew to drive to Strathroy Hospital from the OPP Forest Detachment to arrest a male for attempted murder. He had a gunshot wound and had been picked up by an ambulance at Army Camp Road and Highway 21. He was later identified as Nicholas Cottrelle. Mark Wright assumed that Nicholas Cottrelle had been involved in the altercation with police on East Parkway Drive.

While Detective Constables Speck and Dew were travelling to Strathroy, a call came in to the Forest Detachment about an incident at a private residence on Nauvoo Road. A white car with a flat tire had arrived at a house and one of the passengers told the residents (the Veens) that someone had been shot and that medical care was required. After a short time, they had left the area.

At 11:40 p.m., A/D/S/Sgt. Wright instructed Detective Sergeant Richardson to find the car and to arrest the occupants for attempted murder. A/D/S/Sgt. Wright told Detective Sergeant Richardson that the car had failed to stop at a checkpoint, and that the car might have been involved in the confrontation in the sandy parking lot.

A/D/S/Sgt. Wright called out a number of other police officers because the car and its passengers were expected at Strathroy Hospital, and he thought it was prudent to get as many "detectives" to that scene as quickly as possible.

Detective Sergeant Richardson asked Detective Sergeant Bell to help him locate the white car. They took County Road 12 out of Forest to Nauvoo Road to the house where the white car had stopped to seek medical assistance. The car was gone. The OPP officers did not speak to the residents (the Veens), and therefore did not receive any other information about the passengers in that car.

Detective Sergeants Richardson and Bell continued toward Strathroy Hospital along the route they believed the car would take: Nauvoo Road to Highway 402 to Highway 81. It was their intention to intercept the vehicle. If they found an individual requiring medical attention, they would either provide first aid or arrange for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to transport the individual to a hospital.

Detective Constables Speck and Dew arrived at the hospital around 11:47 p.m. While they were waiting at Strathroy Hospital, A/D/S/Sgt. Wright told them by telephone that a white car with a flat tire with several Aboriginal people, including someone with a “sucking” chest wound, was on its way to the hospital. He instructed the officers to arrest the occupants of the vehicle for attempted murder. Wright believed that OPP officers had been “shot at” and “almost run over” in the altercation and had returned fire into a car and a bus. Shortly after the confrontation, a vehicle had appeared on Nauvoo Road en route to hospital with a person suffering from a gunshot wound. In A/D/S/Sgt. Wright’s opinion, “reasonable and probable grounds existed to draw the inference that that [wounded] person ... and all the other individuals in that vehicle [were] involved in ... attempting to run over the OPP officers or firing upon” them.

Although Mark Wright knew that the car travelling to Strathroy Hospital was white, he made no attempt to determine the colour of the car that had been involved in the confrontation outside Ipperwash Park. Nor did Detective Sergeant Richardson verify whether a white car had been involved in the sandy parking lot incident. A/D/S/Sgt. Wright acknowledged at the hearings that he would not have had reasonable and probable grounds to arrest the individuals in the white car if he had known the car involved in the incident was a different colour than the one en route to Strathroy Hospital.

After speaking to A/D/S/Sgt. Wright, Detective Constable Dew contacted the Chatham Communications Centre at 11:51 p.m. and requested a two-man car at the hospital for security purposes:

We’re gonna have apparently a second gunshot victim on his way to the hospital here coming in a private car ... We don’t know how many ying yangs are gonna be in the car. Can you call London and have them send a Strathroy unit, maybe a two man, to stand out here in case we run into some trouble here?

A sergeant at the London OPP Communications Centre called the hospital at 11:52 p.m. and spoke to Detective Constable Dew:

... [I]t's a white vehicle with a flat tire. There's numerous Indians in it apparently, besides the victim that's been shot in the chest ... We've got three officers heading to the hospital from the Strathroy Detachment. And we've also asked Strathroy PS to send a car over because ... they're figuring there's a possibility of [trouble]. And they're figuring that there could be weapons in this white vehicle too.

At 11:55 p.m., Constable Tracy Dobbin and her partner were dispatched to Strathroy Hospital to arrest a “carload of Natives” en route from the Ipperwash Park area in a white vehicle with a flat tire. They were told an injured person was in the car and it was possible weapons were in the vehicle. Constable Dobbin had little experience as a police officer. The evening of September 6 was only her second shift as an OPP officer. As a probationary constable, she was partnered with an OPP “coach officer.” They arrived at the hospital at 12:04 a.m.

Detective Sergeants Richardson and Bell had no success locating the white car and arrived at Strathroy Hospital at 12:02 a.m. Following a conversation with Detective Sergeant Richardson, Detective Constable Dew spoke with Chatham Communications Centre at 12:04 a.m. and made the following request:

Can you guys be aware of any stolen cars up in the neighbourhood, the northeast Lambton County? And can you drop a line to London OPP Comm. Centre and have them alert anybody out on the road for stolen vehicles? We can't find this white car. It hasn't been spotted on its way to the hospital yet ... White car with a flat tire. So they may be trying to boost another vehicle to get their buddy here.

Detective Sergeants Richardson and Bell set out again at 12:05 a.m. to retrace their steps. At about 12:08 a.m., they returned to Highway 81 and saw a white Chevrolet driving south toward them. Sparks were flying off the car rim from the flat tire. They were a couple of kilometres from the hospital. The officers turned around to follow the car. As they went over the Highway 402 overpass, a marked Strathroy police cruiser pulled in front of Richardson and Bell's unmarked car and also followed the white car. Detective Sergeants Richardson and Bell did not attempt to stop the white car. They considered it prudent to continue because they were within minutes of the hospital, which was the best place from a safety standpoint to stop the vehicle and the best place to get assistance.

As mentioned, minimal notice was given to the doctors and nurses at Strathroy Hospital regarding Ipperwash-related injuries. Dr. Marr, the emergency

physician on call, was notified of the possibility of Ipperwash-related casualties some time between 11:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. that evening, but was not given any details. Jackaline Derbyshire, the charge nurse in the emergency department that evening, received a call from the London Ambulance dispatch at about 11:40 p.m. advising the hospital to expect two gunshot wound injuries, one arriving by ambulance and one arriving possibly by car. She was not advised of the severity of the gunshot wounds, and thought that a patient coming by car would not be seriously wounded.

Nurse Derbyshire received a telephone call from the London OPP about fifteen or twenty minutes after the call from the London Ambulance dispatch. The OPP notified her that officers would be arriving at the hospital for security reasons. They did not explain why security was necessary, although she understood their concerns were in relation to the Ipperwash incident.

As the white car approached Strathroy Hospital, several police cruisers and officers were waiting, including Constable Tracy Dobbin, Constable David Boon, and Detective Constable Mark Dew. Detective Constable George Speck was inside the hospital.

As Pierre George drove the car to the hospital's emergency entrance, Detective Sergeants Richardson and Bell, as well as two officers in a Strathroy police cruiser, surrounded the white car.

Carolyn George got out of the car and asked for a stretcher. As she turned to open the back door to attend to her severely wounded brother, Dudley, she realized that no one was responding to her request. In an insistent tone, Carolyn George demanded a stretcher.

Constable Dobbin approached the vehicle and opened the rear passenger door. She saw the injury to Dudley George's chest. She assumed he was dead. One of the reasons she opened the car door was to look for weapons, but she did not see any. Detective Sergeant Richardson instructed Constable Dobbin to arrest the female passenger. Constable Dobbin shut the rear door without seeking medical help for the severely wounded man.

Carolyn George saw a police officer at the hospital doors nod his head. Police officers grabbed her arms and put her "right down on the ground." Carolyn's face "went right through some shrubs" and her glasses were "knocked off." Carolyn George was trying to ask them to let her see her brother. Carolyn George struggled with the officers and screamed for medical help for her brother, Dudley George.

Constable Dobbin testified that she and another officer tried to restrain Carolyn George so that she could be handcuffed and arrested. The officers

decided to put Carolyn George on the ground to gain control over her. Constable Dobbin testified that as they were doing this, she, another officer, and Carolyn “got bumped from behind,” likely by Constable Boon, and fell forward into the bushes and onto the ground. Constable Dobbin thinks Constable Boon was trying to control Carolyn George. During the struggle, Constable Dobbin heard Carolyn call out for someone to help her brother. Carolyn George yelled that there was an injured person in the back seat of the car.

An officer read Carolyn George her rights and told her that the arrest was for attempted murder.

While officers were arresting Carolyn George, other police officers were holding Pierre George up against a cement wall. Pierre asked what the officers were doing and was told that they were under arrest for attempted murder. When Pierre asked for an explanation for this criminal charge, an officer replied that the first shot came from a white car.

Carolyn and Pierre George were arrested, placed in separate police cruisers, and driven to the Strathroy Police Detachment.

Carolyn George could not understand why she, her brother Pierre, and J.T. Cousins were under arrest when they were simply transporting Dudley, who had been shot by the police, to the hospital to get medical attention to save his life:

... I didn't understand why they were arresting me in the first place because we were just taking Dudley to the hospital, and then to be handcuffed and they wouldn't even let me see Dudley. I didn't know what was going on ...

I was struggling because ... we were attempting to get Dudley out of the car, and they grabbed my arms and I just wanted to get Dudley out and get somebody to look at him ...

To my knowledge, Dudley was still alive when we got to the hospital, and they wouldn't even help, you know, like bring out a stretcher. I felt like Dudley didn't — shouldn't have died.

That evening, paramedic Robert Scott had brought a patient to Strathroy Hospital. While en route, he and his partner received instructions to remain at the hospital after transporting the patient. Mr. Scott was outside the hospital emergency entrance when the white car arrived. After seeing police officers converge on the car, he went back in the hospital. He went back outside after ten to twenty seconds. Mr. Scott expected that someone would instruct him about

whether he should assist the man in the back seat of the car. No police officer said anything to him:

... [E]veryone was to the left of me, concentrating on the lady who they had up against the wall. After she yelled: “My brother. My brother,” I kind of lost track and more tunnel-visioned on the person in the back. Again, as a paramedic, I’m there to assist the sick and ill ... I’m not a police officer at that point. So, anyhow, I look in the back. I step back waiting for someone to tell me to get away from the car, well, wait for someone to tell me to go into the car. No one’s saying anything to me at all.

Robert Scott opened the rear car door, assessed the situation for safety concerns, and saw an unresponsive person on the back seat. He quickly conducted a check of the patient’s ABCs: airway, breathing, and circulation, and for a pulse. He retrieved his stretcher.

Nurse Derbyshire ran outside after the ambulance attendant and said that help was needed on the ramp. The rear passenger door of the car was open and a man was lying across the back seat. She could see he was not breathing. His skin was mottled around the jowls and neck area. Mottled skin has a patchy blue-grey hue and is indicative of deoxygenated blood, which results from a person not breathing or the heart not pumping. There was a pooling of blood around the jowl and neck area, which suggested that blood was no longer circulating. Although Nurse Derbyshire thought he was dead, her priority was to get him into the emergency department. She instructed the ambulance attendants to place the patient on the stretcher as quickly as possible.

Paramedic Scott placed the stretcher next to the car and yelled for help. His partner was among those who responded. Constable Boon also assisted in steady-ing the stretcher. Mark Watt, the attendant in the ambulance that had transported Nicholas Cottrelle to the hospital, had seen the white car arrive. He went to help because he heard people yelling that a person in the back seat had been shot. Mark Watt observed that the patient was unconscious, his colour was poor, and he had a four-by five-inch section of blood on his left upper chest.

It took three to five minutes for the ambulance attendants to transfer Dudley George from the car to the stretcher and wheel him into the trauma room.

J.T. Cousins was deeply affected by the reaction of the police and medical staff when they arrived at the hospital. Dudley was bleeding to death in the fourteen-year-old’s arms. When J.T. Cousins testified at the Inquiry almost ten years later, it was clear he continued to be traumatized by the events of the night of September 6. He claimed that the police locked the hospital doors with a

galvanized chain and a padlock, which prevented medical staff from providing assistance to Dudley George:

I expected the people to come out and help us out. Rather than that, they were all just standing around in front of those glass doors. They couldn't come out because the cops had a galvanized chain with a padlock that went around the doors and they're all just standing there watching ...

They were all inside by the doors. They looked like they wanted to help but couldn't.

J.T. Cousins continues to see the image of the chain and padlock in his nightmares. No other witness at the Inquiry testified to seeing a chain and padlock on the doors. J.T. Cousins agreed that he did not mention this when he was interviewed by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) in January 1996 or by officials from the Coroner's Office in February 2003.

J.T. Cousins was with Dudley in the back seat of the car while the police were arresting Carolyn and Pierre George. The fourteen-year-old believed Dudley was still alive: "[W]hen the cops took me away ... I could see him just starting to slouch over and fall over on the seat ... He was alive. He would still be alive today if they would have opened up those doors and give us some help." But as I discuss in the section on the medical evidence, Dudley George likely died before he arrived at Strathroy Hospital.

The police officers forcibly removed J.T Cousins from Dudley. J.T. Cousins resisted. He was worried that Dudley would choke on his blood if he fell into a prone position:

I was like trying to help Dudley and ... [the] cops sort of like opened up both doors, and they were dragging me away from Dudley ... and they tried to arrest me and that, and I was squirming around on the ground and I got away from them.

I got back to the car and I was trying to help Dudley and he was sitting up. He was starting just to lean over towards the passenger side of the car, and I was trying to help him sit back up. And the cops got a hold of me and they handcuffed me and they took me and put me in the back of the cruiser ...

They dragged me out of the car ... They grabbed from the legs and around my waist and like my arms ... more or less ripping me from the car.

Detective Sergeant Bell's account of his conversation with J.T. Cousins differs from J.T.'s memories. Bell testified that he asked the teenager to exit the vehicle. Bell asked him what had happened. J.T. stated that Dudley had been shot in his heart, he had been carried to the car, and the four of them had driven to the hospital. J.T. had tried to apply pressure to the wound on the journey to Strathroy.

Detective Sergeant Bell saw blood on J.T.'s hands and on his pants. The OPP officer claimed that J.T. was calm, co-operative, and answered questions without hesitation. He told the officer that there were no guns because the Aboriginal occupiers had agreed there would be no such weapons.

An officer arrested J.T. Cousins. Detective Sergeant Bell acknowledged at the Inquiry that J.T. should have been cautioned about his right to speak to counsel and told that he had no obligation to make any statement to Bell or to other police officers. J.T. Cousins was fourteen years old.

J.T. Cousins was handcuffed and placed in a police cruiser. The police told him that he would be arrested on several charges. J.T. said he tried to kick the officers and the door of the police car.

At the hearings, J.T. Cousins discussed his anxiety in reliving this traumatic experience: "This is a very touchy subject and I just still don't even feel safe talking to you guys or nobody else about this. You guys are bringing up real bad memories for me." J.T. continues to be deeply disturbed by the events he witnessed as a child over a decade ago on September 6, 1995.

Many individuals, such as J.T. Cousins, suffered and continue to suffer serious trauma as a result of the events on September 6, 1995. The Office of the Chief Coroner suggested that the government provide timely access to counselling services for those who experience debilitating emotional and psychological consequences from exposure to or involvement in traumatic events involving the police.

This was the last time Carolyn and Pierre saw their brother, Dudley George, before he was proclaimed dead at Strathroy Hospital. Carolyn George believed Dudley was alive when they arrived at the hospital. The police officers did not give any thought to the fact that hospital staff might wish to speak with the occupants of the vehicle to obtain important information about Dudley George's condition. The police transported Carolyn and Pierre George to jail without giving them an opportunity to provide information to medical staff about their brother. They were not permitted to be near their brother while efforts were made to resuscitate him. And they were not given time to say their final farewells.

Pierre George, Carolyn George, and J.T. Cousins were never charged with any criminal offence related to the events of September 6, 1995.

Inspector Carson played no role in the decision to arrest Pierre George, Carolyn George, and J.T. Cousins on their arrival at Strathroy Hospital. Nor did he have anything to do with the decision to keep them in jail in Strathroy. A/D/S/Sgt. Wright and Detective Sergeant Richardson made those decisions. Shortly after midnight, Inspector Carson learned that the persons who had driven Dudley George to the hospital had been arrested and taken into custody for attempted murder. He also later learned they were not armed. Inspector Carson does not believe he was advised at that time of the identity of the occupants of the car. He is not sure when he learned that the occupants included the brother and sister of Dudley George.

Inspector Carson and Superintendent Parkin spoke at around 12:05 a.m. Carson updated his superior on the events. Superintendent Parkin told Inspector Carson that the car that had transported Dudley George to the hospital should be seized. Based on the information he had been given, Superintendent Parkin thought it was possible the car may have been involved in the confrontation that evening and that it could contain some relevant evidence. Superintendent Parkin also wanted to ensure that enough police were at the hospital “in case a bunch of those Indians go over there and go crazy.” In his testimony at the Inquiry, Superintendent Parkin acknowledged that while his terminology might “not have been the best or most professional,” he was trying to convey the message that it was a “very emotionally charged situation” and there was a potential for further confrontation.

During the Ipperwash Review of February 21, 1996, Inspector Goodall made the following comment:

... [T]here were insufficient people to supply information ... [I]nvestigators found a need to have a better understanding of what had taken place at the shooting — innocent people were placed in jail, due to lack of proper information being passed on.

Chief Superintendent Coles agreed with the concern that innocent people were incarcerated because of a lack of proper information, and he acknowledged “in hindsight” that they “should not have been arrested.” Similarly, Commissioner O’Grady said the arrests were “regrettable.” The OPP Commissioner and the Chief Superintendent testified that there was a lack of communication amongst the police officers who made decisions that night, and that there was “a considerable

amount of confusion as to what had occurred and the activities” in the Ipperwash Park area.

18.4 Anthony “Dudley” George at Strathroy Hospital

Shortly after midnight Dudley George was brought into the emergency department by paramedics Mark Watt, Robert Scott, and Mark Weiss, and the nurse in charge of the emergency room, Jackaline Derbyshire. One of the paramedics performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Dudley George as his stretcher was wheeled into the emergency department.

Dudley George was immediately taken into the trauma room. Because of the apparent seriousness of his injuries and condition, most of the medical personnel in the trauma room quickly turned their attention to Dudley George.

It was immediately apparent to Dr. Marr and the nurses who assessed Dudley George that his situation was grave. Nurse Derbyshire, who helped move Dudley George from the car into the emergency department, testified that when she first saw Dudley George, he was not moving, and he did not appear to be breathing. His skin was a mottled, blue-grey colour, which indicated that his blood was not oxygenated or circulating.

Within a few minutes of his arrival at Strathroy Hospital, “Code Blue” was announced over the hospital’s public address system, which indicated that a patient was in cardiac arrest and/or in need of resuscitation of breathing and circulation. Medical staff from other parts of the hospital came to assist with resuscitation efforts.

Dr. Elizabeth Saettler, the general surgeon on call at the hospital, was completing paperwork in another part of the hospital when she heard the “Code Blue” announcement. She immediately joined Dr. Marr in the trauma room to assess and treat Dudley George.

The medical team involved with Dudley George that night consisted of Drs. Marr and Saettler, nurses Glenna Ladell, Marlene Bergman, and Jackaline Derbyshire, and the paramedics who brought Dudley George in from the parking lot. Without delay, the team began working on Dudley George with the hope of resuscitating him.

The physicians focused their assessment on the bullet wound to his left shoulder or collarbone area, which was one centimetre in diameter. Dudley George did not have significant amounts of blood on his skin or clothing. Dr. Marr concluded that he was bleeding internally, and that a bullet had punctured a major blood vessel in his chest. They were unable to find an exit wound for the bullet.

Oxygen was pumped into Dudley George’s airway through a mouth mask. Three minutes after his arrival in the emergency department, Dr. Marr inserted a

tube into his airway to push air deeper into his respiratory system. When she listened to his lungs; however, Dr. Marr could not hear this air move into his lungs.

Because of the suspected internal blood loss, two intravenous lines were inserted to pump fluid to expand plasma and replace blood volume. Medical personnel hoped this added blood volume would stimulate his heart to start pumping again and provide circulation to the rest of his body. A telemetry strip was attached to his chest to discern any electrical activity in his heart. The paramedic continued cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Dudley George's lungs and heart did not respond to any of the efforts by the medical team to restart his circulation and breathing. Dr. Marr described Dudley George's condition:

He had no signs of life ... He had no pulse. On [listening to] his heart, there were no heart sounds. He had no air movement; no air entry into his chest, no movement of his chest. His pupils were fixed and dilated, his corneal reflexes were absent ... When we put on the telemetry to see if there was any electrical cardiac activity, it was a flat line.

Dr. Marr explained that even when a person's pulse cannot be detected, if the person is alive, electrical activity should be detectable in the heart. But there was no such electrical activity in Dudley George's heart after his arrival in the emergency department, despite efforts of the medical team to resuscitate him.

As they were attempting to resuscitate Dudley George, Dr. Saettler and Dr. Marr discussed the possibility that the patient suffered from either a tension pneumothorax (a condition where the chest cavity fills with air), or a tension haemothorax (where the chest cavity fills with blood). Both conditions create pressure in the chest cavity, and prevent normal circulation of blood and air in the heart and lungs. Drs. Saettler and Marr testified that the only way to relieve either condition is to insert a chest tube between the ribs into the chest cavity. They elected not to do so because they believed there was no prospect that Dudley George would be successfully resuscitated. In other words, Dudley George had died.

At 12:20 a.m. in the early morning hours of September 7, 1995, Dudley George was pronounced dead by Dr. Marr at Strathroy Hospital.

In Dr. Marr's opinion, Dudley George was dead upon his arrival at the hospital. His extremities were cool to the touch, his pupils were fixed and dilated, and there was no discernible electrical activity in his heart.

Dr. Marr testified that it takes between five and ten minutes of severe loss of blood flow to a patient's brain for the pupils to become fixed and dilated. Dr. Saettler stated that Dudley George's lack of pupil response and flat cardiogram indicated that there had been at least ten to fifteen minutes of negligible cardiac

output. She was of the view that by that point, brain damage would be significant and probably irreversible, even if resuscitation were possible.

In the opinion of both Dr. Marr and Dr. Saettler, Dudley George's heart stopped at least ten to fifteen minutes (and perhaps longer) prior to his arrival at Strathroy Hospital.

Dr. Andrew McCallum, an expert in emergency medicine who reviewed Dudley George's medical care and records, concluded that it was likely this patient did not have vital signs at least thirty minutes before his arrival at the hospital.

As stated, the physicians treating Dudley George made a decision at 12:20 a.m. to stop efforts to resuscitate him. This decision to stop resuscitation is based on a number of factors. These include whether vital signs are present, whether the patient is conscious, and the cause and timing of the patient's injuries. If the patient has no vital signs and is not conscious, it is important for physicians, in deciding whether to continue to resuscitate the patient, to know how long these signs have been absent.

Medical personnel had no way of knowing how long Dudley George had been unconscious when he arrived at Strathroy Hospital, how long vital signs had been absent, or when he had been injured.

While she was assessing and trying to resuscitate Dudley George, Dr. Marr asked a nurse to try to obtain more information about Dudley George's condition from the people who had brought Dudley George to the hospital, with no success.

Because he had been brought to the hospital in a private vehicle by family members who were prevented by the police from speaking with medical staff, the doctors and nurses treating Dudley George were compelled to rely exclusively on their own observations. It was not clear to them how long they should continue their attempts to revive him because they did not know how long he had been unconscious or when he had been injured. Dr. Marr testified:

... [W]e did everything that we could ... on the assumption that, perhaps, he had only just collapsed and that there might be some chance of resuscitating him. So, all the measures we took were on the assumption that there could be an opportunity here that we could bring him back.

Detective Sergeant Richardson, who was involved with the arrests of the family members who transported Dudley George to the hospital, testified that medical staff could have contacted the OPP Strathroy Detachment to speak to those family members if they needed medical information about the patient. None of the family members were given the opportunity to speak to medical

staff about their relative's condition. The police officers did not inform the medical staff where the arrested persons were or how to contact them.

In my view, it was inappropriate for the police officers to remove Pierre George, Carolyn George, and J.T. Cousins without giving them an opportunity to speak to medical staff about the nature, timing, and circumstances surrounding Dudley George's injuries. When they made their arrests outside the hospital, the police officers did not know the medical team at Strathroy Hospital would not be able to revive Dudley George. It could well have been the case that those arrested had knowledge and information about Dudley's injuries and/or medical history that may have assisted medical personnel in providing effective and appropriate treatment to him. Were that the case, the officers' decision to arrest and remove the three people and prevent them from communicating with hospital staff could have had dire consequences.

The officers who were involved in the arrests did not find any weapons in the car or in the possession of the occupants. Carolyn George, J.T. Cousins, and Pierre George were not an immediate risk to the officers, medical staff, or the public. From a humanitarian point of view, denying the individuals who had accompanied a gravely injured family member to hospital information about the injured party's condition or the opportunity to speak to hospital staff demonstrated a lack of compassion on the part of the OPP officers.

At the hearings, Commissioner Boniface testified that it was "extremely regrettable" that the family members who had brought Dudley George to the hospital "were not able to ... spend their time with the deceased." Inspector Carson said that it was "very unfortunate" that Dudley George's relatives were not allowed to give any information to doctors about Dudley George or his condition. A/D/S/Sgt. Wright also said the following:

I couldn't imagine how those poor people would feel being in custody when their brother is ... dying and they are pulled away from him. It's a tragic thing that happened ... [I]t's a very unfortunate set of circumstances. And I don't have any problem saying, you know, that I wish I had had more information.

Word of Dudley George's death was communicated to OPP officers in the hospital and, through them, to senior OPP officers, including A/D/S/Sgt. Wright and Inspector Carson.

Shortly after he was pronounced dead, Dudley George's body was removed from the trauma room and placed in a small private room near the front of the emergency department. An OPP officer was assigned to guard the body.

At Dr. Marr's request, nursing supervisor Glenna Ladell at 1:00 a.m. notified the Coroner, Dr. Perkin, of Dudley George's death. At 3:22 a.m., an OPP constable tested Dudley George's hands for gunshot residue, took photographs of his body, and collected his clothing. The results of the test for the gunshot residue were negative.

18.5 Arrival of Dudley George's Brother Sam and Other Relatives

Sam George, Dudley George's brother, received a telephone call from an unidentified person sometime after 11:00 p.m. on the evening of September 6, 1995. He was told that his brother Dudley George had been shot and had been taken to Strathroy Hospital. Sam George woke his wife and both she and their son Donald accompanied Sam to the hospital. They were greeted by a nurse and escorted immediately to a private room, where Sam's sister Pamela George joined them. Having lost other members of his family, Sam George "knew exactly what they were going to tell [him]."

Nurse Ladell told Sam and Pamela George that their brother Dudley George had died. They were escorted into a room where they identified their brother. Sam George asked medical and police personnel to notify him when his brother's body was released.

Sam George and members of the George family asked if they could perform a smudging on Dudley George's body in the small room in the hospital emergency department. Initial concerns raised by hospital and police personnel about the safety of igniting matches in proximity to oxygen lines were set aside. Sam George's son, Donald, went outside the hospital to light the smudge, and the ceremony was performed by family members. The purpose of the ceremony, as described by Sam George, is to "start that cleansing process for that body, and to help that spirit, now that it was going to start to prepare itself to make that journey back to the spirit world."

Sam George and his family left the hospital shortly after 1:00 a.m. for the OPP Strathroy Detachment. It took several requests before he was allowed to enter the building. Once he was permitted to see his siblings, Pierre and Carolyn George, he told them of their brother Dudley's passing.

The Coroner, Dr. Perkin, arrived at the hospital at approximately 1:45 a.m. He examined Dudley George's body. He advised Detective Constable Speck that x-rays were required to determine whether ammunition remained in Dudley George's body. Dr. Perkin and an OPP constable took Dudley George's body for x-rays.

At that time, Ron "Spike" George (Dudley George's cousin), Reg George (Dudley George's older brother), and Warren George Sr. (a cousin to both Dudley

George and Ron George) arrived at the hospital and asked to see the body. Ron George said: “[F]rom an Aboriginal person’s perspective, until you can see the body and touch the body or whatever, at least in my teachings, in my practise, you still kind of don’t believe that it’s true.” Detective Constable Dew told them they could view the body upon its return from the x-ray room.

Dr. Perkin spoke with Ron and Reg George when he returned to the emergency department with Dudley George’s body. He told them that an autopsy would likely be performed the next day, and that he would notify them when the autopsy results were available.

Dudley George’s body was moved from the emergency department to the hospital morgue at 3:00 a.m., where it remained under OPP guard until arrangements were made for an autopsy.

18.6 Autopsy of Dudley George

Dr. Gary Perkin, the Coroner, ordered a post-mortem examination or autopsy of the deceased on September 7, 1995. Dr. Michael Shkrum performed the autopsy on September 8, 1995.

Dr. Shkrum, an expert in the field of forensic pathology, obtained information about the circumstances surrounding Dudley George’s death from the document issued by Dr. Perkin that directed the autopsy. Eleven people were present at the autopsy, including Dr. Shkrum, various OPP officers, Special Investigations Unit investigators, a firearms specialist from the Centre of Forensic Sciences, a pathology assistant, two pathology residents, and a radiology technologist.

Dudley George’s body bore evidence of attempts by medical staff to revive him. A tube remained in his mouth as a result of his intubation by Dr. Marr, and intravenous lines were in each arm.

The major trauma to Dudley George’s body was a gunshot wound over his left collarbone. It was evident to Dr. Shkrum that Dudley George’s collarbone was broken when he felt the skin underneath the bullet wound. Dr. Shkrum also observed an abrasion on Dudley George’s right leg.

Once the external examination of Dudley George’s body was complete, an x-ray was taken of his chest and leg. The x-ray revealed projectile fragments in his torso, which confirmed that the wound above his left collarbone was caused by a gunshot. The x-ray also revealed fluid, which Dr. Shkrum suspected was blood, that had collected in the left side of his chest. No metal fragments were found in Dudley George’s leg.

Dr. Shkrum examined all the organs and tissues for abnormalities and signs of disease. The forensic pathologist confirmed information received earlier

through the coroner, that Dudley George suffered from a heart murmur, and from atherosclerosis with a 75 per cent narrowing and hardening of a major artery leading to his heart. Dr. Shkrum did not believe that either condition contributed to Dudley George's death.

The bullet travelled through Dudley George's body over his left collarbone, through his lungs, and into his back. It travelled from the left to the right side, along a diagonal downward trajectory in the body. The bullet pierced several blood vessels along this path, particularly in Dudley George's lung. The bullet fractured one rib and went through a second rib before it lodged in the soft tissue beneath the skin of Dudley George's back.

Bleeding resulted from each of the injuries inflicted by the bullet. Dr. Shkrum found one litre of blood in the chest cavity, which represented between 15 and 20 per cent of Dudley George's blood volume.

Two fragments of a bullet were removed from underneath the skin in Dudley George's back.

It was Dr. Shkrum's opinion that in light of the path of the bullet, it was not possible that Dudley George was standing up when he was shot, unless the shooter was positioned at a point considerably higher than him (i.e., in a tree or on top of a building). It was possible that Dudley George was in a kneeling or crouching position when he was shot. Dr. Shkrum could not say how far Dudley George was from the shooter when he was shot, beyond noting that he was not at a close enough range for gunshot residue to have been found on his skin.

Dr. Shkrum also examined a wound on the back of Dudley George's right leg. He did not know what had caused this "abrasion." Dr. Shkrum also examined Dudley George's shoes and clothing and found some blood spatter, staining, and holes consistent with his wounds.

Samples of Dudley George's blood and other bodily fluids were taken and submitted to the Centre of Forensic Sciences for testing.

Dr. Shkrum concluded that Dudley George died as a result of a gunshot wound to his upper chest. He lost one litre of blood as a result of the internal bleeding from the wound. Dr. Shkrum stated that blood loss of this magnitude would be sufficient to put a person into a condition of shock.

Dr. Shkrum described the clinical manifestations of shock:

... [B]lood pressure starts to drop as they're losing blood, their heart would start to beat more quickly, trying to pump what blood is left more efficiently throughout the body. They might be breathing more heavily, but eventually a point would be reached ... [where] there wouldn't be enough blood to be pumped effectively throughout the body ... They would begin to feel faint, lose consciousness. The heart

may continue to beat, they may breathe for a period of time, but eventually all these basic body functions would cease because of the lack of blood flow, particularly to the brain, particularly the vital centres of the brain that control breathing and the heart rate.

In Dudley George's case, shock had fatal consequences. Dr. Shkrum concluded:

The mechanism of death, that is, the disturbance that caused [Dudley George's] death, would have been a shock-like state with eventual cessation of blood flow to the brain and eventual cardiorespiratory arrest, that is, his heart stopped beating and he stopped breathing.

Dr. Shkrum believed that Dudley George could have died in "a matter of minutes" after he was shot. As I discuss in this chapter, a review of the autopsy results in 2003 confirmed that the "key factor" in Dudley George's death was the speed at which the blood loss occurred.

Dr. Shkrum prepared the autopsy report. It was issued on March 11, 1996, approximately six months after Dudley George's death.

18.7 Review of Medical Care Provided to Dudley George

Some of the Aboriginal witnesses who testified, including family members of Dudley George, questioned whether Dudley George received adequate medical care from the time he was shot until the time he was pronounced dead. Questions were raised as to whether anything could have been done to avert his death.

In 2003, Dr. Andrew McCallum, a Coroner for the Province of Ontario, was asked by the Chief Coroner for Ontario to review the circumstances relating to the death of Dudley George, including the care he received from the time he was shot until he was pronounced dead. Dr. McCallum was called as a witness at the Inquiry to testify about his 2003 review. He also testified as an expert in the field of emergency medicine, including emergency procedures and pre-hospital and in-hospital assessment and treatment of penetrating trauma to the torso. He reviewed the autopsy results and related reports to provide insight regarding the injuries suffered by Dudley George and their contribution to his death.

Dr. McCallum examined several aspects of the care that Dudley George received including:

- a. Dudley George's transportation to the hospital by a private vehicle;
- b. the first aid he received en route to the hospital; and

- c. what factors, if any, may have affected Dudley George’s chance of surviving the injuries he suffered.

Doctors Marr, Saettler, and Shkrum also commented on these issues during their testimony.

18.7.1 Transport to Hospital: Time Elapsed and En Route Care

Dr. McCallum emphasized the importance of transporting a gravely wounded individual to the hospital as quickly as possible for there to be any chance of effective treatment. He commented that

... based on studies that have been done throughout the world ... the most important determinant of outcome ... is time of arrival at the hospital.

So, despite the fact that one might intuitively believe that the intervention of paramedics in these cases would make a tremendous difference, the evidence doesn’t support that.

In fact, it seems to be that those who are going to survive are those who arrive at hospital in a very short time.

Dr. McCallum concluded that the decision of Pierre George, Carolyn George, and J.T. Cousins to drive Dudley George to the hospital as quickly as possible, rather than waiting for an ambulance to arrive at Ipperwash, was likely the “correct” decision under the circumstances. In this case, the availability of advanced paramedic support en route may have made no difference. The expert in emergency medicine concluded that the method of transport was “not relevant” to Dudley George’s death or any chance he may have had at survival.

18.7.2 First Aid and/or Care En Route to Hospital

J.T. Cousins applied pressure to the bullet wound during the trip to the hospital. This was the only first aid Dudley George received before he arrived at Strathroy Hospital. Dr. McCallum testified that because the bleeding occurred inside the chest cavity, applying pressure to the bullet entry wound would not stop or slow the bleeding.

Dr. Marr suggested that replacement of fluids by intravenous lines and intubation would need to be started within minutes of the injury in order for the patient to survive long enough to receive the necessary surgical treatment, and even

then it would be difficult to “keep up” with blood loss of the kind Dudley George experienced. None of the emergency paramedics in the region of Strathroy Hospital at the time were capable of starting the type of intravenous lines required under these circumstances.

In Dr. McCallum’s view, providing intravenous fluid to Dudley George while he was transported to the hospital would not necessarily have helped him. Nor did he think that advanced paramedic assistance prior to Dudley George’s arrival at the hospital would have changed the outcome. He referenced a study that indicated that for cases of penetrating wounds and trauma, the care that sophisticated paramedics might be able to provide en route may in fact be harmful to the patient. For example, supplying intravenous fluid prevents the natural constriction of blood vessels and may lead to an increase in blood loss.

Pierre George, Carolyn George, and J.T. Cousins provided the best care to Dudley George in the circumstances by transporting him as quickly as they could to Strathroy Hospital, rather than waiting for medical assistance.

18.7.3 Factors That May Have Affected Dudley George’s Chance of Survival

Both the physician who treated Dudley George and the expert in emergency medicine agreed that he had little or no chance of survival under the circumstances. Dr. Marr testified that the only way for a person suffering from a wound such as his to have any chance of survival was if he was delivered to a major trauma centre within minutes of sustaining his injuries. To successfully treat a major artery puncture in the chest cavity, invasive surgery called a thoracotomy — in which the chest is entered through a large incision — must be performed immediately to halt the bleeding. But even attempts made immediately, in the most sophisticated of trauma centres, would have a limited chance of success. If Dudley George had been brought to a major trauma centre, an emergency thoracotomy might have been attempted. Had he not been in cardiac arrest when he arrived at such a centre, Dudley George would have had only a 16 per cent chance of survival, according to Dr. McCallum, under optimal conditions. A patient who has been in cardiac arrest for less than fifteen minutes has only a minimal — 0.8 per cent to 4.0 per cent — chance of survival. But Strathroy Hospital is not a major trauma centre. The closest centres, Windsor or London, would have taken even longer to reach.

Dr. Marr testified that to successfully treat a person suffering from a 0.5 cm wound to a pulmonary artery, medical staff need to open that person’s chest and close the wound within minutes of the patient sustaining the injury, as blood does not clot in internal chest wounds. She noted there are not many places with the

necessary treatment capabilities for this type of injury. The only patients who could possibly survive injuries such as those suffered by Dudley George would be those brought immediately to nearby sophisticated treatment centres where procedures such as emergency thoracotomies can be performed. Dr. Saettler commented:

I think that the only prospect of resuscitating patients with injuries of this sort is to transport them quickly and directly to a hospital which has a reasonable capability for vascular surgery or thoracic surgery and that *Strathroy Hospital was not equipped to deal with an injury of this nature, even if we had received this patient in a timely fashion.* (emphasis added)

When Dudley George arrived at Strathroy Hospital, medical staff attempted to resuscitate him through cardiac compressions, intubation, and the use of intravenous fluids. In Dr. McCallum's view, the treatment and resuscitation attempts by Doctors Marr and Saettler were appropriate.

Based on the observations of a nurse at Strathroy Hospital of Dudley George's lividity or pooling of blood that occurs in bodies after death, as well as the report from J.T. Cousins about the absence of movement prior to the time the car arrived at the farmhouse, Dr. McCallum estimated that Dudley George had likely been without vital signs and in cardiac arrest for at least thirty minutes before his arrival at the hospital. In these circumstances, Dr. McCallum believed he had no chance of survival.

Dr. McCallum based this opinion, in part, on the fact that only ground transport was available in the region of Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995. He testified that there was only one air ambulance available in Ontario in 1995. Dr. McCallum took the position that it would not be reasonable to pre-assign an air ambulance to a location based on the mere possibility that multiple casualties might occur. Conceivably, if such an air ambulance was on-site at Ipperwash Provincial Park at the time Dudley George was shot, and was able to transport the patient to London, the trip would take twenty minutes. But it is important to note that air ambulances cannot land at a site after dark unless it is an approved heliport. It was Dr. McCallum's opinion that even under optimal circumstances, such as arrival at a full trauma centre within fifteen minutes from the time of injury and an emergency thoracotomy, Dudley George would likely not have survived his gunshot wound.

In the opinions of Dr. McCallum, Dr. Marr, and Dr. Saettler, Dudley George had died by the time he arrived at Strathroy Hospital and no medical interventions

or attempts at resuscitation would have changed the outcome, regardless of the sophistication of the equipment, the surgery capacity of the hospital, or the training of medical personnel. In the absence of a means to quickly transport Dudley George from the site where he was shot to a hospital with an on-site trauma team, a thoracic surgeon, and medical staff within minutes of his being injured, no medical intervention of any kind would have been effective.

