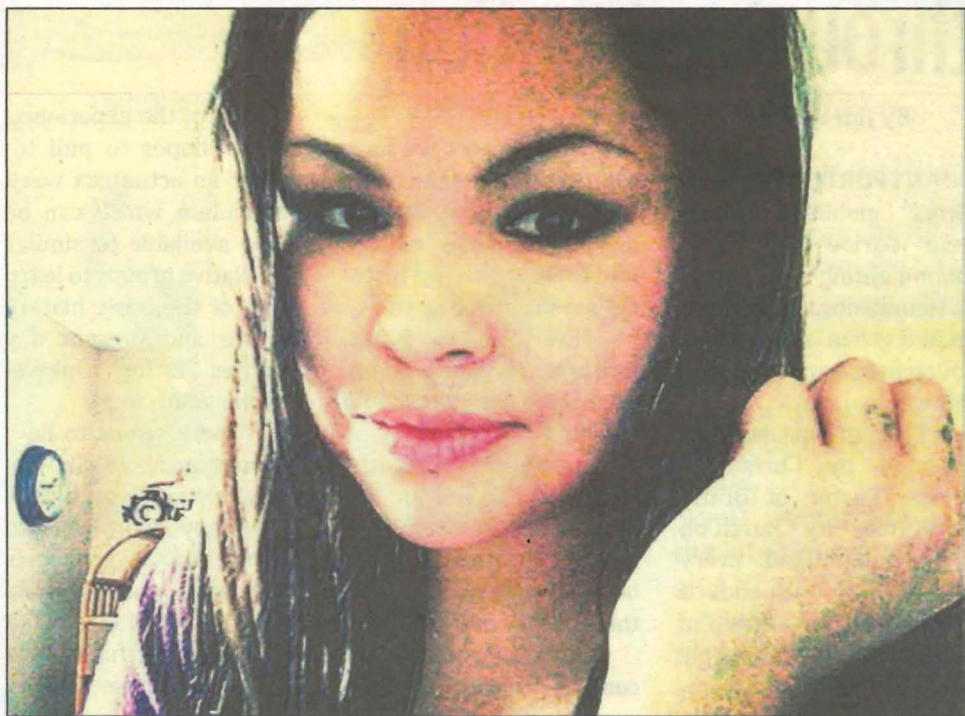


Family of Cheyenne Fox seek justice



Cheyenne Fox, 20, died from a 24-story fall last April. Her family continues to fight for answers.

By Jen MtPleasant

In 2013, three young First Nations women met sudden and tragic deaths in Toronto within a three-month period. Even more startling is the fact that the police quickly dismissed all deaths as either suicides or ruled out foul play without doing a thorough investigation.

In May 2013, Terra Gardner, 26, from Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, was struck and killed by a freight train in Toronto. Police ruled out foul play despite the fact that Gardner was summoned to testify in a murder trial and she had told people close to her that she had been receiving death threats in relation to this.

In April 2013, Cheyenne Fox, 20, a member of the Sheguiandah First Nation died after falling from a 24-storey condo in Toronto. Within hours, Toronto Police told Fox's

family she committed suicide.

And in July of 2013, Bella Laboucan-McLean, 25, from Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation died after falling 31-storey's from another condo in Toronto. Initially, police once again tried to rule Laboucan's death a suicide, but after much pressure from the large First Nations community in Toronto, police are now treating her death as suspicious.

Three beautiful young women, all met sudden tragic deaths and police are doing very little to find answers.

But Cheyenne's father, John Fox, won't rest until justice is served. Fox, along with friends and family of Cheyenne, strongly believe her death was not a suicide. Cheyenne left behind a two year old son, Xavier, whom she loved very much. Fox is now calling for an inquest into his daughter's death.

Members of Cheyenne Fox's family are demanding that Toronto police treat her death as a homicide.

Last November, Fox's lawyer along with supporters met with Toronto Police to discuss the death of Cheyenne. Ac-

cording to Fox, the police admitted that they might be part of a 'systemic failure': that is failure of the criminal justice system to treat First Nations people with diligence and respect, especially when they are victims of crime or victims of disappearances and murders.

Fox also attended Toronto Police headquarters and met with Staff Inspector, Tony Riviere and four detectives to discuss their investigation into Cheyenne's death. Riviere told Fox, "What's going on with Aboriginal folks, is not just in the city of Toronto. It's part of a larger problem."

Riviere may have been referring to the disproportionate number of First Nations women who, in the past 30 years, have either met sudden and violent deaths or have gone missing without a trace and a general unwillingness of police to help find answers. According to a report released by the Native Women's Association, at least 582 Indigenous women and girls have been murdered and gone missing in the past three decades.

First Nations women



E.L.K. FARMS

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 10