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## Grandson charged in Bernard death

By CATHY von KINTZEL Truro Bureau  
Tue. Jan 1 - 8:19 AM



Mi'kmaq activist Nora Bernard's body was found in her home early Thursday morning. (PETER DUFFY/Staff/File)

Police say Mi'kmaq activist Nora Madeline Bernard received blunt force trauma to her face and stab wounds to her upper body in her home last week, and have charged her grandson with first-degree murder.

James Douglas Gloade, 24, of Millbrook was crying as sheriff's deputies led him into a Truro provincial courtroom for arraignment Monday morning.

Mr. Gloade stared at the floor, occasionally rubbing his bloodshot eyes and face with his hands during the court appearance that lasted two minutes. He didn't speak or enter a plea and will remain in custody until his next court date Jan. 7.

The 72-year-old Ms. Bernard is best known for leading a successful fight for justice and compensation for Indian residential school survivors like herself from across Canada.

Police say her 32-year-old son found her body on the kitchen floor of her Willow Street home in Truro shortly before 3 a.m. last Thursday. He lived with his mother and had returned home after visiting friends.

Truro Police Chief David MacNeil said Ms. Bernard sustained severe trauma and was stabbed with what investigators believe was a knife to the front of her body, around the neck, but he said little else about her injuries.

"Out of respect for Nora and her family, I don't really want to get into the details," he told media during a news conference Monday morning. The murder weapon has not

been recovered.

Chief MacNeil said the motive for the killing is not very clear at this time, but investigators don't suspect robbery. There was nothing missing from the home, there was no forced entry, and police aren't pursuing any other suspects.

"Through our investigation it is believed that drugs may have been a factor in the crime, not a motivating factor," the police chief said in response to reporters' questions.

Police identified Mr. Gloade, who was said to be a frequent visitor to his grandmother's home, as a person of interest early in the investigation. They arrested him at the Pictou Landing First Nation on an unrelated warrant Friday afternoon and took him to Truro for questioning.

"From this interview, information was obtained which led to the current charge," Chief MacNeil said.

Police originally told the media they were charging Mr. Gloade with second-degree murder, but upgraded the charge to first-degree murder following consultation with the Crown attorney's office.

"This was a very unfortunate tragedy," Chief MacNeil said. "I can only imagine what the family is going through to lose the matriarch of the family and a strong person like Nora Bernard and then to have a grandson charged with the crime."

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There'd been speculation in the community that Ms. Bernard may have been a target for money because she recently received her compensation cheque from the federal government as an Indian residential school survivor.

But Chief MacNeil said that doesn't appear to be the case.

Lloyd Johnson, a senior band councillor for the Millbrook First Nation of which Ms. Bernard was a member, said the community is hurting.

"At the start there was a lot of grief, a lot of fear," he told reporters.

"Today, it's a lot of hurt. There's not a lot of anger."

The band council was to meet later Monday to discuss with police how best to help the family and community by offering such services as grief counselling. Ms. Bernard's funeral will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Millbrook.

Mr. Gloade has a criminal record of assault, uttering death threats and numerous breaches of court orders. At the time of his arrest Friday, he was serving a six-month conditional sentence in the community for charges of uttering a threat and breaching a court order.

Mr. Johnson said he knows Mr. Gloade well from being around the community and because he played hockey with his son. He described him as a good kid, despite his brushes with the law.

He believes grandmother and grandson had a close relationship.

In response to media questions, Millbrook RCMP Const. Rick Hill said there's absolutely no indication that Mr. Gloade's arrest will spark any kind of unrest in the community.

Chief MacNeil said he hopes it will help with the grieving and healing processes.

Ms. Bernard's family members requested through the police that the media not contact them.

([cvonkintzel@herald.ca](mailto:cvonkintzel@herald.ca))

#### COMMENTS

#### POST YOUR COMMENT

##### shartouch wrote:

"There can be no doubt that the elder must rule the younger" Plato This FACT seems to have been forgotten by both our elders and our youth. It is time for the silent majority of our communities (both youth and elders) to step up and make the communities safe. Fear is no longer an excuse the majority must act!

##### Lone Female wrote:

This is a triple heartbreak for Nora's family. It's one thing to have a much loved family member pass away suddenly but to find out it's foul play then on top of that to discover it was another family member arrested for it, that's too much heartbreak for one family to endure. My deepest sympathy to the entire family and community.

##### AmberO wrote:

What a tragedy for the Bernard family and community. My heartfelt condolences during this time of healing for all. Rest in Peace Nora. Respectfully submitted.

##### Shining Star wrote:

It is indeed a great tragedy for the Bernard family. My heart is breaking for anyone with connection to this family. As an outsider I cannot even imagine their grief, having to deal with such horrific pain. This is not only the loss of a wonderful human being but also to cope with your own, someone you also love, being the accused. Sincere sympathy to all.

##### chief wiggam wrote:

it seems to me that if the community had the councillors and chief shut down a few of the "businesses" in the community, then such things might not occur as often. elections are coming....so probably no change no one wants to lose votes from drug dealers.

##### Lone Female wrote:

The Bernard and Gloade families, as well as the community at large, are having a difficult time coping with the tragic events that have occurred and are asking for privacy at this time. I ask at this we all respect the wishes and grant privacy to all involved.

##### Debertdon wrote:

It will be informative to note , as time passes in this tragic case , if this fellow was on pills to easily

obtained from some doctors in this area - or some other addiction .

**myamie wrote:**

I have kept in touch with this story from day one, and what a horrible senseless tragedy. Being as close to millbrook as I am I can tell you one thing...this was going to happen sooner or later. This community is flooded with heavy drugs, even so much as finding them in the playgrounds. Seems to me something should have been done before it escalated as far as it has. Why have the RCMP not done their job as they should and get rid of these drugs before young people like Mr. Gloade are hooked? Why has the Chief and Council not approached this issue before?? Is it from lack of caring, or just too busy??? The people in this community have got to be devastated. And one can only hope something will be done before more elders or young people are taken advantage of by these drugs.

**Bella wrote:**

Such a sad tragedy. My heart goes out to The Family of NORA BENARD as it does to her grandson James Gloade and all the family. This young man has a heavy cross to bear. I hope his family is there to support him. Nova Scotia. If WE All could be able to take 'the blinders off' as to what's been and being allowed to happen since and during the Mulroney-Buchanan regime. If We all could have the ability and even common sense to look at the big picture of what's happening in Nova Scotia - to get out of the tunnel vision - to actively participate in educating Yourself to what's happening all across this province, connect the dots-Common Sense - and the lawyer-land developer - politicians that came about with Mulroney's coming into and infecting Our province, he and his 'associates' are behind and protecting the organized crime flooding Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Stealing OUR government monies, OUR Crown Lands and corporations-as in Nova Scotia Power. It's those drugs and a corrupt government & courts, with a society who choose to remain ignorant and apathetic that is the cause of this province's downfall and family tragedy's. .... and isn't this too similar to Canada's most shameful, atrocity Canada's Residential Schools. Take The Blinder's Off now before this family tragedy happens to yours.

**Betty wrote:**

I, m sure Chief: Wiggam, you hit the nail on the button, this is not the 1 st time people & elders have been on the edge in our communities, I imagine the family is far beyond hurt, my deepest sorrow to them, as far as the Grandson , he should rot in jail, I feel no sorry for twisted man, its sad that his soul was taken by Drugs. maybe the community should rally to bring a better Chief & some councils, it, s not just about money, we lost a very respectful elder , by stupidity, maybe this is the way of healing our communities & get rid of the old regimes corruptions, all they seem to care about is themself, s . I think people are sick of seeing the old faces, how many more have to be hurt, hundresd of years of abuse, s & some by our own leaders , Damn (HOLY SUSIE), its got to stop . "TIME TO CLEAN THE COMMUNITIES". Like Chief WiggAM says put your X in the right BOX come "E L E C T I O N DAY" .

**Twodogs wrote:**

It hurt me to see so many coments about election, drugs, and so on about this story. Our community has lost a real wonderful person and it seems everyone has forgetting that they should be honoring and respecting Nora and her family. Not picking apart how thing are run or how it should be.... Save that for the next headliner!

**lester wrote:**

Bella First my heart goes out to the family of Nora Benard. Bella maybe you should take the blinders off and join us regular Canadians who do not live of Canadian tax payers. Hunt and Fish when we have to pay same taxes as we do. Never mind putting blame on Government look in your own backyard Government.

**Experienced wrote:**

Bella -- How can you seriously lay this unfortunate event at the feet of Brian Mulroney? You must be living on another planet.

**Kiltedone wrote:**

Bella. How sad that you chose to use the death of this great lady as a platform from which to preach your irrelevant, confused sermon. Shame on you.

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