

Media Statement from the family of Paul Boyd

Our son and brother, Paul, died in the shooting on Granville Street on August 13th. The actual sequence of events leading up to his death is still under investigation and we do not wish to comment on that here.

Our purpose is to let the public know what kind of person Paul was. He was friendly, intelligent, gentle, humorous and compassionate. From his youth he showed an unusual gift for expression in the visual arts. For the past 15 years he had a successful career as an animator, employed by a number of different animation studios in Vancouver. He was passionate about his work and it was highly regarded.

Unfortunately, while in his early twenties he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder (manic-depression), an illness for which he has received constant and usually effective treatment. He battled this illness with great courage for almost 20 years. Most of the time he was well and few would have guessed that he suffered from any kind of mental disorder, but periodically he would suffer periods of mania and depression which could produce vivid paranoid delusions that made him fear imagined threats. Over and over he faced these setbacks and bravely climbed back out of the depths of his illness and was able to work productively and enjoy a satisfying life. Sadly, there are very few people who have not suffered from this illness who can appreciate what kind of courage this takes.



At the time of his death, he was in the midst of one of these frightening episodes. His death means that he will never again have to face the struggle of regaining normality and getting on with his life.

Paul was a big and strong man whose appearance could be intimidating to those who did not know him. But in fact he was gentle and kind. His actions during his last tragic moments on earth were not part of his personality but were a result of the irrational fear produced by his illness.

Paul loved his family dearly and was loved by all who knew him well. He will be greatly missed by his parents, two sisters, his niece and nephew, and by his extended family and many friends.

Our son and brother died a tragic death. This is a very sad time for his family and we ask that our privacy be respected and that we be left in peace to mourn our great loss.