

FACT SHEET

Medical Examiner's Service

Chief Medical Examiner: Dr. Matthew Bowes (appointed 2006)

Autopsies per year: 650-750

Death investigations per year: 2,200

Cremation approvals per year: 4,500

Staff: 13 FTE

Number of medical examiners who do autopsies: 3

Established: 1960, under Fatality Inquiries Act (First chief medical examiner appointed in 1989 after amendments to the Act)

Current facility: Rented space at the QEII Health Sciences Centre (includes one autopsy table) and a Halifax office building.

New facility

Site: 0.64 hectare (about 1.6 acres)

Size: 2 stories, 27,000-square-feet

Building: 2 adjacent L-shaped buildings with separate air exchangers for safety, modeled after Miami-Dade County facility

Cost: \$12.9 million

Time to complete: 14 months

Autopsy tables: 4

Other Highlights:

- Private meeting room for families
- Highly secure facility
- Hookups to allow more capacity in event of a catastrophe
- Training space for partner organizations (EHS, police, Crown prosecutors, etc.) and medical education