Slain teacher's family appeals for public help

Janelle Cote found dead on Oct. 13

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Janelle Cote’s mother and two sisters sat side by side Wednesday at the RCMP’s Edmonton headquarters, their eyes red and raw with tears, as they begged anyone with information about the slain teacher’s death to come forward.

“We are a family believe that somebody out there must know something,” said Cone’s sister, Rhonda Begg. The family was grieving. “Maybe you have had your suspicions about someone you know.”

Any information, as small as you may think it is, may lead to justice for Janelle and her family and for those left behind to love this beautiful teacher.”

The family set a table displaying three framed pictures of Cote. The three struggled through tears as they spoke.

Police have released no information about a possible cause of death. How Cote died is unknown. “We are trying to make public any information that we have,” said Cone’s husband, Ron Cone.

The Cote family’s appeal was met with a $500,000 reward, which was doubled to $1 million by the Edmonton Police Service. “We are trying to make public any information that we have,” said Cone’s husband, Ron Cone.

In an effort to calculate the approximate cause of death, the RCMP distributed a poster of Cote, as they searched for witnesses. “We are trying to make public any information that we have,” said Cone’s husband, Ron Cone.

Cone was an avid runner and a former high school teacher. She had been married for 10 years when she was killed. Police are still trying to figure out why anyone she knew had been involved in the slaying.

Cone was known as a popular Grade 9 teacher and coach. About 1,400 people attended her memorial service last week, including many who knew her well and had grown close to her, as well as her late husband and family.

In her absence, Cone was remembered by former students and colleagues as a kind and caring teacher who always put her students first. “She was a great teacher and a great person,” said one former student.

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