



CALGARY — The grieving family of an Okotoks man is disputing claims by Mexican authorities that he committed suicide by leaping to his death off a fourth-storey hotel balcony in Cancun.

Mexican police say that Christopher James Morin's diary, found in his Costa Maya Barcelo hotel room, indicated he was depressed.

But a distraught Tiffany Ennis, Morin's longtime girlfriend, said Saturday that Morin gave no signs that he was suicidal.

"He was so excited. He put his foot in the ocean and he was going to go surfing the next day," said Ennis, who received a late-night text message from Morin on Wednesday, talking about his plans.

"He'd never been on a trip before. It was his dream to swim in the ocean," Ennis said through tears.

Morin, 30, and a friend, Joseph Clayton, arrived for a sunny resort holiday on Wednesday. By Thursday he was dead. Hotel staff found his body at 6 a.m., lying on a tiled patio beneath his room.

"They were doing what you do in Mexico — having fun," said Ennis, adding that the couple had talked of marriage. "All I know is that he didn't kill himself. He would never have done that. I know him better."

Morin's brother, David Sikorski, agreed: "There is no way in hell my brother was even thinking about that. It seems so unreal to think he would have jumped."

Mexican authorities told the Herald Friday they found traces of cocaine, marijuana and alcohol in Morin's blood.

Clayton told police the pair had been drinking in the early morning hours at the hotel bar before the fall. He told police he went to bed at 3 a.m. and didn't find out until after he awoke hours later that Morin was dead. Police questioned Clayton and ruled him out as a suspect.

Morin died from head trauma as a result of the fall, the Novedades de Quintana Roo newspaper reported.

It is reported that Morin, who worked as a house framer, may have been involved in a bar dispute earlier in the evening.

Hotel officials said there had been no report of "scandal" from the room.

Morin's family says his diary was a tool he used to work out his feelings. He typically tore up entries after completing them, Sikorski said.

But the entries read by Mexican authorities were made before Morin's holiday.

"He was texting people and was very happy to be there," said Sikorski.

Canada's Foreign Affairs say they are in touch with Mexican officials about the investigation.

It is the second time this year an Albertan has died under similar circumstances in Cancun. Mexican authorities said Jeff Toews, 33, of Grande Prairie, fell from a second-floor balcony after a night of heavy drinking.