



# **MEDIA STATEMENT**

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH**

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Wednesday, March 7, 2007

07-04

### **SPECIAL PROSECUTOR APPROVES CHARGE**

**VICTORIA** – The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General today announced that an independent Special Prosecutor has approved a charge against a Crown Prosecutor arising out of a police investigation into a fatal motor vehicle incident on the Pattulo Bridge on March 8, 2006. An investigation report was forwarded by New Westminster Police to the Branch on March 1, 2007.

An Information charging Sharon Greene with one count of Driving without Due Care and Attention contrary to s. 144 of the *Motor Vehicle Act of British Columbia* was sworn and filed in BC Provincial Court in New Westminster today.

The decision to approve the charge against Ms. Greene was made by independent Special Prosecutor Christopher Considine, Q.C.

Mr. Considine, a senior Victoria Lawyer, was appointed on March 1, 2007 by Robert W.G. Gillen, Q.C., the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch.

Mr. Considine's mandate as the Special Prosecutor includes:

- Conducting an independent charge assessment based on any investigation report the police may submit to him;
- Providing the Assistant Deputy Attorney General with a written report setting out his charge assessment decision; and
- If in his view a charge is warranted, conducting the prosecution and any subsequent appeal.

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Special Prosecutors are appointed under the Crown Counsel Act when there is a significant potential for real or perceived improper influence in the independent exercise of prosecutorial responsibilities, including the charge assessment process. The decisions of Special Prosecutors are final subject only to receiving written instructions from the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General or the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch. In such an event, those directions must be made public by publishing them in the BC Gazette.

Ms. Greene will make her first appearance in New Westminster Provincial Court on the morning of April 4, 2007.

As this matter is before the court, it would not be appropriate to comment on the circumstances of the case at this time.

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