



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

Friday, 28 March 2008

08-08

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ANNOUNCED

Victoria – The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General today confirmed, in response to a media enquiry, the appointment of Robin McFee Q.C. as an independent Special Prosecutor concerning a police investigation into allegations of potential improper conduct on the part of former officials with the City of Chilliwack. As one aspect of the investigation included examining whether Mr. John Les, the current Solicitor General for the Province of British Columbia improperly benefited from any commercial transactions involving land developers when he held the position of Mayor of Chilliwack an independent Special Prosecutor was appointed.

Mr. McFee, a senior Vancouver Lawyer, was appointed on June 28, 2007 by Robert W.G. Gillen, Q.C., the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch. The appointment was made following a request for a Special Prosecutor from Royal Canadian Mounted Police in relation to an ongoing investigation.

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

- Offering such independent legal advice as the police investigators may require during the course of their investigation;
- 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.

The Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch appoints Special Prosecutors pursuant to the Crown Counsel Act when there is a significant potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of criminal justice.

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The decisions of Special Prosecutors are final subject only to receiving written directions from the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General or Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch. In such an event, those directions must be made public by publishing them in the Gazette.

As this matter is currently with the Special Prosecutor it would not be appropriate to comment any further at this time.

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