



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

Tuesday, 8 July 2008

08-12

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 John Waddell, Q.C. as an independent Special Prosecutor concerning a Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation into allegations of misconduct involving a former senior official with the Ministry of Health, Ronald Danderfer.

Mr. Waddell, a senior Victoria lawyer, was appointed on April 18, 2008, by Robert W.G. Gillen, Q.C., the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch. The appointment was made following a request from the RCMP for a Special Prosecutor, and in light of Mr. Danderfer's senior position in the BC Public Service at the time of the alleged misconduct.

Mr. Waddell'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; 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 now with the Special Prosecutor, it would not be appropriate to comment any further at this time.

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