



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

September 16, 2011

11-18

Special Prosecutor Appointed to Review Prince George Incident

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General today announced that Ravi Hira, Q.C. has been appointed as an independent Special Prosecutor in connection with an incident in Prince George which included an alleged assault on a prosecutor employed by the Criminal Justice Branch.

Mr. Hira, a senior Vancouver lawyer, was appointed September 15, 2011 by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Robert W.G. Gillen, Q.C. in anticipation of receipt of an investigative report from the Prince George R.C.M.P. Mr. Hira subsequently reviewed the investigative report and has approved a total of five charges against Adrien Real Bergeron. The charges include a count of assault causing bodily harm, as well as a count under section 423.1 of the *Criminal Code* of using violence against a justice system participant, both laid in relation to the alleged assault on the prosecutor involved in the incident.

Mr. Bergeron has been remanded in custody to appear in Provincial Court in Prince George on Tuesday September 20, 2011.

Mr. Hira's mandate included:

- Conducting an independent charge review of the Report to Crown Counsel submitted by the investigative agency and making the charging decision he deemed appropriate in the exercise of his independent prosecutorial discretion;
- Offering such legal advice as is necessary to the police in the event that further investigation by them is required;
- Providing a written report to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General with the results of his review and the reasons for his decision; and
- If in his view a prosecution was warranted, continuing 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, the 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 Gazette.

As this matter is now before the court it would not be appropriate for the Special Prosecutor or the Criminal Justice Branch to release any additional details at this time. The individual prosecutor involved in the case will not be making any public statement at this time.

This Media Statement has been reviewed by the Special Prosecutor and he has approved its release.

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