



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

July 26, 2013

13-20

Special Prosecutor Appointed In Abbotsford Investigation

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Justice (the “Branch”) today announced that Joseph M. Doyle has been appointed as a Special Prosecutor in relation to the matter of Armand Charles Belisle, Dylan Michel Majorel, Jakob Mosterd, and Samantha Dawn Patenaude, B.C. Provincial Court file 79669 – in Abbotsford. The accused are charged in relation to an incident on July 20, 2013 in Abbotsford involving an alleged breaking and entering, and robbery at the residence of Ryan Plecas. Mr. Doyle, a senior Vancouver lawyer, was appointed on July 23, 2013 by Assistant Deputy Attorney General, M. Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten, QC.

The Branch dealt with the initial charge assessment and the initial court appearances of all four accused. However, given that the complainant, Ryan Plecas is the son of Darryl Plecas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Crime Reduction, Ms. DeWitt-Van Oosten concluded that it was necessary to appoint a Special Prosecutor to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of criminal justice.

Mr. Doyle's mandate includes:

- Conducting an independent charge assessment review of the existing charges and the investigative report prepared by the Abbotsford Police Department and making the charging decision he considers appropriate;
- Offering such legal advice to police as is necessary in the event that further investigation by them is required;
- Providing a written report to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General with the result of his review; and

Branch Vision

Courageous, Fair and Efficient – A Prosecution Service that has the Confidence of the Public.

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- If he concludes that continuation of a prosecution is warranted, conducting the prosecution and any subsequent appeals.

Given this matter is currently before the court and subject to review by Mr. Doyle, no further information can be released at this time, and no additional public comment will be made by either the Branch or Mr. Doyle.

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