



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

July 4, 2014

14-16

Crown Recommences Prosecution of Robert Frederick Widdifield

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice, announced today that it has recommenced its prosecution of Robert Frederick Widdifield in Nanaimo Supreme Court on Indictment #74552, where Mr. Widdifield is charged with extortion and theft over \$5,000. This case has attracted considerable public attention and engages matters of public interest and the Branch considers it appropriate to release a statement regarding the Crown's steps in the matter.

Mr. Widdifield's charges were stayed by the Supreme Court on June 3, 2013 due to an alleged delay in bringing the matter to trial. The Crown appealed the judicial stay and on May 1, 2014, the Court of Appeal overturned the stay, remitting the matter back to the trial court (2014 BCCA 170).

Mr. Widdifield appeared in B.C. Supreme Court in Nanaimo today. His trial has now been set for October 6th 2014 for 9 days.

As this matter is before the court, the Branch will make no further comment at this time.

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To learn more about B.C.'s criminal justice system visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/prosecution-service/>

or Justice B.C. : www.justicebc.ca/en/cjis/index.html

Branch Vision

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

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