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17-12

Special Prosecutor Approves Two Charges of Uttering Threats to Okanagan MLAs

Victoria - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Special Prosecutor Kris Pechet has approved charges of uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm against Pavla Janeckova of Kelowna. The threatened persons are Premier Christy Clark and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Steve Thomson. The threats are alleged to have occurred on or about April 30, 2017 in Kelowna, British Columbia. Ms. Janeckova's first appearance on these charges is scheduled for June 30, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Kelowna Provincial Court file number 87161-1

Mr. Pechet was appointed a Special Prosecutor on May 3, 2017 shortly after a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) relating to these charges was received by the BCPS. The Assistant Deputy Attorney General Peter Juk QC appointed Mr. Pechet under s. 7 of the *Crown Counsel Act* because he considered it in the public interest to do so. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor is intended to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of justice in light of the nature of the allegations and the identity of the subjects of the threats.

Mr. Pechet is a senior New Westminster lawyer in private practice. He was given a mandate to provide legal advice to the RCMP investigators as may be necessary, conduct any related charge assessment and assume conduct of the prosecution if charges were approved. Announcement of his appointment was initially postponed pending completion of the investigation and charge assessment.

As this matter is now before the Court, neither the BCPS nor the Special Prosecutor will be making any further comment.

The BCPS policy on Special Prosecutors and a related Information Sheet can be found at:

www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/spe-1-special-prosecutors.pdf

[Role of Special Prosecutors](#)

The Charge Assessment Guidelines that are applied by the BCPS and Special Prosecutors in

reviewing all RCCs are established in Branch policy and are available at:

www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/cha-1-charge-assessment-guidelines.pdf

Media Contact: Dan McLaughlin
Communications Counsel
Daniel.McLaughlin@gov.bc.ca
250.387.5169

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