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19-07

BC Prosecution Service releases revised Crown Counsel policies

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) today announced the release of a series of revised policies. For more information on the BCPS Indigenous Justice Framework and policies related to that, please refer to [Media Statement 19-06](#), released earlier today.

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement and maintaining the currency, relevancy, and appropriateness of its policies, the BCPS is releasing revised and updated versions of several existing policies.

The policy *Sexual Transmission, or Realistic Possibility of Transmission, of HIV* ([SEX 2](#)) has been substantially updated to reflect developments in the medical and scientific understanding of how HIV can be transmitted during sexual acts.

The policy *Intimate Partner Violence* ([IPV 1](#)) has been updated to clarify guidance related to bail.

The *Information Requests from Third Parties* ([INF 1](#)) policy now provides better and clearer guidance on how prosecutorial information and data is shared with the public.

In addition, a number of BCPS policies have been modified to remove all gendered language from our Policy Manual.

The BCPS will continue to make the Crown Counsel Policy Manual available to the public online, with a view to promoting a better understanding of prosecutorial responsibilities and guidelines that inform the principled exercise of discretion by Crown Counsel. We will also continue to review the policies on an ongoing basis to ensure they accurately reflect developments in Canadian criminal law, respond appropriately to emerging issues or community needs, including scientific developments, and reasonably balance individual rights and the public interest.

Responding to the diverse communities we serve, the BCPS will continue to provide translations of certain key policies into eight languages in addition to English and French. The revised policies and their translations are all available at:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bc-prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual

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