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## MEDIA ADVISORY

July 27, 2007

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Coroners Service

### **CORONER'S INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF DAVID KENNETH SMELTS**

VICTORIA – The coroner's inquest into the death of David Kenneth Smelts has been scheduled. Mr. Smelts was in police custody following a single motor vehicle incident. Despite medical treatment at the scene, Mr. Smelts died on Oct. 6, 2006.

The inquest is scheduled for Nov. 27-29, 2007. Presiding Coroner Beth Larcombe and a five-person jury will publicly hear evidence from subpoenaed witnesses in order to determine the facts surrounding the death. The jury will have the opportunity to make recommendations aimed at preventing deaths under similar circumstances in the future.

**Date: Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007**

**Time: 9:30 a.m.**

**Location: B.C. Supreme Court  
850 Burdett Avenue, Victoria**

-30-

An inquest is a formal court proceeding that allows for public presentation of all evidence relating to a death. The BC Coroners Service is an independent fact-finding agency that may not make any finding of legal responsibility.

The BC Coroners Service is part of Emergency Management BC, an overarching body mandated to ensure co-ordinated emergency response in crisis and disaster situations. EMBC also leads prevention initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for all British Columbians through enhanced public safety.

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