



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

07-06

ASSISTANT DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL RESPONDS TO REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

VICTORIA – As Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch, I am responsible for the operation of British Columbia's prosecution service, including the conduct and supervision of all Criminal Code and provincial statutory prosecutions in British Columbia.

I am responding to recent media reports regarding a request from MLA Maurine Karagianis that the Branch launch an investigation or initiate a prosecution of a certain individual under the *Lobbyists Registration Act*.

On Monday afternoon of this week I received a letter with accompanying materials from Ms. Karagianis requesting that I appoint a Special Prosecutor and advising that in the event charges were not initiated by Thursday, April 26, 2007, then her intention is to swear a Private Information.

Although the Criminal Justice Branch is responsible for the conduct of prosecutions, Crown Counsel do not conduct investigations into alleged wrongdoing. In such a situation it is the responsibility of the police to determine whether an investigation is warranted. If police decide to conduct an investigation, they may, in their independent discretion, prepare and forward a written Report to Crown Counsel for charge assessment. If such a report is submitted to Crown Counsel, then it is at that time that the prosecution service becomes engaged in the process of determining whether a charge should be pursued.

Yesterday, I responded in writing to Ms. Karagianis' letter and informed her that I have forwarded her letter and materials to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Branch has not received a Report to Crown Counsel nor has it received a request from police for legal advice concerning this matter. Consequently, I have advised Ms. Karagianis that currently there is no basis upon which to appoint an independent Special Prosecutor.

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