



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

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Friday, 19 October 2007

07-13

### **CROWN COUNSEL RECEIVES POLICE REPORT IN RELATION TO LOBBYING ACTIVITIES**

**VICTORIA** – The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General today announced it has received a Report to Crown Counsel from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police relating to allegations of a possible breach of the provincial *Lobbyists Registration Act* by a named individual. The Branch received the police report on Thursday, October 18, 2007.

On April 23 2007, Robert W.G.Gillen Q.C., the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch received a letter with accompanying materials from Maurine Karagianis, the Member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly for Esquimalt Metchosin. In her correspondence, Ms. Karagianis requested the appointment of an independent Special Prosecutor in relation to an alleged violation of the provincial *Lobbyists Registration Act* by a named person. On April 24, 2007 the Branch provided Ms. Karagianis' letter and materials to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to determine, in the independent exercise of their discretion, whether they would conduct an investigation.

At that time, Mr. Gillen advised Ms. Karagianis by letter that the prosecution service was not engaged in this matter as it had not received an investigation report for charge assessment nor had it received a request for legal advice from an investigative agency. Accordingly, Mr. Gillen determined that there was no basis upon which he could consider the appointment of an independent Special Prosecutor.

Having received the Report to Crown Counsel yesterday, the Branch is now reviewing this matter to determine the appropriate course of action, including the possible appointment of a Special Prosecutor.

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