



# **MEDIA STATEMENT**

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH**

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Monday, 7 January 2008

08-01

### **CROWN COUNSEL LAUNCHES APPEAL IN PICKTON CASE**

**VICTORIA** – The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General today has filed an appeal in relation to the acquittals of Robert William Pickton on six counts of first degree murder. The appeal was filed in the Vancouver Registry of the British Columbia Court of Appeal earlier today.

The decision to appeal was based on a comprehensive review by senior Crown Counsel who concluded that viable grounds of appeal exist and a provisional appeal should be initiated in relation to the acquittals of Mr. Pickton on six counts of first degree murder.

The time limitation for the Crown to file an appeal from the 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder acquittals is 30 days from the date of the acquittals; meaning the deadline for the Crown to file and serve a Notice of Appeal is tomorrow. The time limitation for Mr. Pickton to appeal from the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder convictions expires on January 10, 2008, 30 days from the date of sentencing.

The Crown's decision preserves its right to appeal in light of the differing time limitations and the possibility that Mr. Pickton could launch an appeal after the expiry of the Crown's deadline. In the event Mr. Pickton appeals and the appeal court orders a new trial, then the Crown will, on its appeal, vigorously advocate that any retrial be for 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and on all 26 counts.

The filing of the Notice of Appeal is provisional in nature as the Crown will only seek to prosecute the appeal if:

1. Mr. Pickton appeals from the convictions of second degree murder; and
2. The appeal court determines in response to that appeal that a new trial is required.

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**Criminal Justice Branch HQ**  
**Ministry of Attorney General**

*Mailing Address:*  
PO Box 9276 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J7

*Office Location:*  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1001 Douglas Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J7  
Telephone: (250) 387-3840  
Fax: (250) 387-0090

If Mr. Pickton does not appeal his convictions or if his appeal is denied, then the Crown will not be seeking a new trial order. In such an event Mr. Pickton will continue to serve a sentence of life imprisonment with no eligibility to apply for parole for 25 years.

As the matter is now before the courts it would not be appropriate to comment any further at this time.

Media Contact: Stan T. Lowe  
Communication Counsel  
Criminal Justice Branch  
(250) 387-5169