



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

April 9, 2010

10-03

Criminal Justice Branch Announces Appointment of Special Prosecutor

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General today announced that Mark R. Jetté has been appointed as an independent Special Prosecutor in connection with a police investigation involving Member of the Legislative Assembly Jane Ann Thornthwaite.

Mr. Jetté, a senior Vancouver lawyer, was appointed on April 6, 2010 by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Robert W.G. Gillen, Q.C. after the earlier receipt of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigative report into events alleged to have occurred on February 23, 2010.

Mr. Jetté's mandate includes:

- Conducting an independent charge review of the Report to Crown Counsel submitted by police and making the charging decision he deems appropriate in the exercise of his independent prosecutorial discretion;
- Offering such legal advice as is necessary to the police in the event that any further investigation by them is required;
- Providing a written report to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General with the results of his review and the reasons for any charging decision;
- If in his view a prosecution is warranted, conducting that prosecution and any subsequent appeal.

The Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch appoints Special Prosecutors pursuant to the Crown Counsel Act when there is a significant potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of criminal justice.

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The decisions of Special Prosecutors are final, subject only to receiving written directions from the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General or Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Branch. In such an event, those directions must be made public by publishing them in the Gazette.

As this matter is currently with the Special Prosecutor it would not be appropriate for the Criminal Justice Branch to comment any further at this time.

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