



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

April 28, 2010

10-06

Special Prosecutor Approves Charges

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General today announced that independent Special Prosecutor Mark Jetté has approved a charge against a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

An Information charging Jane Ann Thornthwaite with one count of operating a motor vehicle while having a blood alcohol level over 80 milligrams in 100 millilitres of blood, contrary to section 253(b) of the *Criminal Code*, was sworn today in Provincial Court in North Vancouver. A first appearance on the matter is scheduled for May 12, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in North Vancouver.

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 included:

- Conducting an independent charge review of the Report to Crown Counsel submitted by police and making the charging decision he deemed 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 were warranted, conducting that prosecution and any subsequent appeal.

Criminal Justice Branch HQ
Ministry of Attorney General

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

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

In accordance with the mandate granted, Mr. Jetté will now continue to have conduct of the prosecution.

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.

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 now before the court it would not be appropriate to comment further or release additional details of the case at this time.

Media Contact: Neil MacKenzie
Communications Counsel
Criminal Justice Branch
(250) 387-5169

Mark R. Jetté
Special Prosecutor
(604) 669-6699