



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

July 6, 2010

10-15

Criminal Justice Branch Announces Decision of Special Prosecutor

Victoria – A review conducted by independent Special Prosecutor Mark Jetté has resulted in the laying of a criminal charge against Sgt. George Chong of the Victoria Police Department. Sgt. Chong is the brother of the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport for the Province of British Columbia.

An Information charging Sgt. Chong with assault under s.266 of the *Criminal Code* was sworn today in the Provincial Court in Victoria. The next appearance date for this matter is August 4, 2010 @2:00 p.m.

Mr. Jetté, a senior Vancouver lawyer, was appointed on June 8, 2010 by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Robert W.G. Gillen. Q.C. to review an investigative report prepared by the Vancouver Police Department in connection with events alleged to have occurred on January 15, 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.

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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 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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