



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

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### **Crown Initiates Appeal from Sentence in William Mastop Case**

The Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice, announced today that on April 29, 2013 it filed an Application for Leave to Appeal from Sentence in the case of *R. v. William Jacob Mastop*.

On April 4, 2013, Mr. Mastop was sentenced to one year imprisonment after pleading guilty to participating in or contributing to the activity of a criminal organization, contrary to section 467.11 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

The Criminal Justice Branch reviewed the *Reasons* of the Justice who sentenced Mr. Mastop to assess whether there was a legal basis on which to initiate an appeal from sentence. In accordance with Branch policy, the Crown will generally only initiate an appeal from sentence where it has concluded, in light of the facts of the case and the applicable law, that a reasonable basis can be advanced for seeking a variation of the sentence imposed. It is, of course, up to the appellate court to ultimately assess whether the sentence was unfit and a variation is warranted.

A determination was made in this case that an appeal should be initiated. As such, the Criminal Justice Branch has filed an application with the Court of Appeal for British Columbia that seeks to have the sentence of imprisonment increased. A tentative hearing date for the appeal has been set for July 18, 2013 in Vancouver.

As this matter is now before the Court of Appeal, the Criminal Justice Branch will not comment further on the specifics of the case.

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### ***Branch Vision***

***Courageous, Fair and Efficient – A Prosecution Service that has the Confidence of the Public.***

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