



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

June 18, 2015

15-12

Appointment of Special Prosecutor in Abbotsford Prosecutions

Victoria – The Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice (“CJB”), announced today that a Special Prosecutor appointed pursuant to s.7 of the *Crown Counsel Act* has approved charges against Ryan Plecas and Cody Green in connection with an incident that occurred in Abbotsford on December 21, 2014.

Two Informations were sworn in Abbotsford Provincial Court on June 18, 2015, one charging Mr. Plecas with one count of dangerous driving under the *Criminal Code*, and another charging Mr. Green with one count of mischief under the *Criminal Code*. A summons was issued on both files, requiring Mr. Plecas to make his first appearance in Abbotsford Provincial Court on July 30, 2015, and Mr. Green to make his first appearance in Abbotsford Provincial Court on August 6, 2015.

Assistant Deputy Attorney General, M. Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten, QC, appointed Marvin Stern, a senior lawyer from private practice in Surrey, as a Special Prosecutor on June 12, 2015, following receipt of an investigative report from the Abbotsford Police Department. Ryan Plecas is the son of Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors and Abbotsford South MLA Darryl Plecas. In light of this fact, Ms. DeWitt-Van Oosten concluded that a Special Prosecutor should be appointed to avoid any real or perceived improper influence in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

Mr. Stern’s mandate includes:

- Conducting an independent charge review of the Report to Crown Counsel submitted by the investigative agency and making the charging decision he deemed appropriate in the exercise of his prosecutorial discretion;
- Offering such legal advice as is necessary to the police;
- Providing a written report to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General with the results of his review and the reasons for his decision;

Branch Vision

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

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- If in his view a prosecution was warranted, conducting the prosecutions and any subsequent appeals.

As these charges are now before the Court, no additional information will be released at this time by either the Criminal Justice Branch or the Special Prosecutor.

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