



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

August 17, 2016

16-17

### Appointment of Special Prosecutor

**Victoria –** In the late afternoon of August 16, 2016, the Assistant Deputy Attorney General (the ADAG) for the Criminal Justice Branch (the Branch), appointed a Special Prosecutor in relation to a matter involving Pat Pimm - a current Member of British Columbia's Legislative Assembly.

The ADAG, M. Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten, QC, made the appointment under s. 7 of the *Crown Counsel Act* because she considered it in the public interest to do so. In light of Mr. Pimm's status as a MLA, the appointment of a Special Prosecutor is intended to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of criminal justice.

Michael Klein, QC, has been appointed as the Special Prosecutor. He is a senior Vancouver lawyer in private practice. The Branch has not received a Report to Crown Counsel (RTCC) from police in relation to Pat Pimm. However, the Branch understands that Mr. Pimm is currently the subject of release documents that were imposed on him by police under the *Criminal Code*, following an arrest for an alleged offence. In accordance with standard practice, it is up to police to independently determine whether an RTCC is submitted for charge assessment, based on information gathered during the course of any ongoing investigation.

The appointment of a Special Prosecutor is necessary to address any issues that may arise in respect of the existing release documents, including any related court appearances or applications, as well as provide legal advice to the investigating agency (the R.C.M.P.) if required. At the present time, the Special Prosecutor's mandate has been limited to these responsibilities.

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To learn more about B.C.'s criminal justice system, including the appointment of [Special Prosecutors](#), visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bc-prosecution-service>

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### **Branch Vision**

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

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