



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

March 31, 2017

17-06

Appointment of Special Prosecutor

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch (CJB), Ministry of Justice, announced today that on December 16, 2016, the Assistant Deputy Attorney General Peter Juk QC (the ADAG) appointed a Special Prosecutor in relation to matters involving the Nanaimo City Council. The Vancouver Island District General Investigation Section of the RCMP had previously sought the assistance of the CJB in dealing with an investigation involving the Nanaimo City Council.

Mr. Juk made the appointment under s. 7 of the *Crown Counsel Act* because he considered it in the public interest to do so. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor is intended to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of justice in light of the nature of the allegations and the status of the members of Nanaimo City Council as elected municipal officials.

Mark Jetté has been appointed as the Special Prosecutor. He is a senior Vancouver lawyer in private practice. Mr. Jetté was given a mandate to provide legal advice to the RCMP investigators as may be necessary, conduct any related charge assessment and assume conduct of the prosecution if charges were approved.

The Branch understands that one council member is currently the subject of release documents that were imposed by police under the *Criminal Code*, following an arrest for an alleged offence.

Announcement of the appointment of Mr. Jetté was initially postponed pending completion of the investigation. Following consultation with the Special Prosecutor, and taking into account the specific circumstances of the case, including the release, on conditions, of a member of council, the Branch concluded that issuing a Media Statement announcing the appointment was appropriate at this time.

As this matter is currently subject to an ongoing investigation, neither the CJB nor Mr. Jetté will comment further or release any additional information at this time.

Media Contact: Dan McLaughlin
Communications Counsel
Criminal Justice Branch
(250) 387-5169

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Branch Vision

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

Office of the
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Justice Branch
Ministry of Justice and 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