



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

April 10, 2017

17-07

Appointment of Special Prosecutor

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch (CJB), Ministry of Justice, announced today that on April 5, 2016, the Assistant Deputy Attorney General Peter Juk QC appointed a Special Prosecutor in relation to allegations of sexual offences which allegedly occurred between March 24, 2017 and April 3, 2017 in Surrey.

Greg DelBigio QC was appointed Special Prosecutor when CJB was advised that the Surrey RCMP had commenced an investigation into allegations of possible offences committed by a relative of an employee of the Criminal Justice Branch. 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 close personal relationship between the subject of the investigation and the Branch employee.

Mr. DelBigio is a senior Vancouver lawyer in private practice. He was initially 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. On April 7, 2017 Mr. Delbigio ultimately approved a single charge of arranging by telecommunications to commit a sexual offence against Kuljinder Singh Bhatti. Mr. Bhatti's next appearances will be on May 4, 2017 in Surrey Provincial Court on file #221433.

Announcement of the appointment of the Special Prosecutor was initially postponed pending completion of the investigation and approval of charges. Following consultation with the Special Prosecutor, and taking into account the specific circumstances of the case, the Branch concluded that issuing a Media Statement announcing the appointment was appropriate at this time.

As this matter is now before the court, neither the CJB nor Mr. DelBigio will comment further or release any additional information at this time.

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Branch Vision

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

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