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17-11

New Special Prosecutor Appointed in case Against Former Deputy Sheriff

Victoria – On September 13, 2016 the BC Prosecution Service announced that Special Prosecutor Michael Tammen, QC had approved four charges against former Kamloops Deputy Sheriff Kevin Johnston. The charges include three counts of communicating with a person believed to be underage for the purpose of facilitating a sexual offence. An additional charge of invitation to sexual touching was recently stayed by the Special Prosecutor. These alleged offences are said to have occurred between August 8, 2016 and August 27, 2016, at or near the cities of Kamloops and Kelowna. Mr. Johnston is next before the court on July 6, 2017 in Kelowna to fix a date for his trial.

On June 14, 2017 the Prosecution Service was advised that Mr. Tammen had been appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia effective immediately. As a consequence of this appointment the Prosecution Service has appointed a new Special Prosecutor to replace Mr. Tammen.

Mr. Brock Martland, a Vancouver lawyer in private practice, has agreed to assume the prosecution. He has been given a mandate to conduct an independent review and assessment of the current charges, provide legal advice to the investigative agency as required, and conduct the continuation of the prosecution and any subsequent appeal if he determines that the prosecution is warranted based on the BC Prosecution Services Charge Assessment Guidelines.

As this matter remains before the court, neither the Prosecution Service nor the Special Prosecutor will be making any further comment.

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