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Special Prosecutor files direct indictment alleging additional charges in Luke Strimbold case

Victoria - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Special Prosecutor Leonard Doust QC has approved the majority of the initial charges sworn by Burns Lake RCMP against Luke Strimbold on February 3, 2018, and has also approved further sex-related charges involving three additional complainants.

The new charges are included on a 29-count direct indictment filed today in BC Supreme Court in Smithers. The Special Prosecutor declined to approve a charge sworn by the RCMP involving one of the alleged complainants, as he concluded the charge assessment standard was not met.

The first appearance on the direct indictment by the accused is scheduled for October 1, 2018 in BC Supreme Court in Smithers.

A prosecutor, including a Special Prosecutor, may prefer a direct indictment with the approval of the Attorney General or Deputy Attorney General. A direct indictment avoids the requirement of a preliminary inquiry and allows the matter to proceed directly to trial. For more information, please see BCPS policy *Direct Indictments* (DIR 1):

www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/dir-1.pdf

The charge assessment guidelines that are applied by the BCPS and Special Prosecutors in reviewing all RCCs are established in BCPS policy *Charge Assessment Guidelines* (CHA 1) and are available at: www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines

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

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