



December 5, 2018

18-24

## **New Special Prosecutor appointed in R. v. Strimbold**

**Victoria** – The BC Prosecution Service today announced that Special Prosecutor Leonard Doust QC has withdrawn from the prosecution of Luke Strimbold for personal reasons. As a result of this decision on November 28, 2018, the Assistant Deputy Attorney General Peter Juk QC (ADAG) appointed a new Special Prosecutor to replace Mr. Doust.

Richard Peck QC, a senior 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 Service *Charge Assessment Guidelines* (CHA 1). The matter has been adjourned to allow Mr. Peck to complete his independent assessment. The accused will be back in court in Smithers on December 21, 2018 to fix a trial date.

Mr. Doust previously approved a number of charges against the accused following his review of the investigative file. His decision was announced on August 9, 2018. A link to the media statement announcing his decision can be found here:

[www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/media-statements/2018/18-18-specialprosecutorapprovesadditionalcharges.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/media-statements/2018/18-18-specialprosecutorapprovesadditionalcharges.pdf)

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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