



March 28, 2019

19-05

Appointment of Special Prosecutor

Victoria - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that on December 17, 2018 Michael Klein QC was appointed Special Prosecutor in relation to an investigation of a sexual assault alleged to have occurred in Coquitlam in 2015. The suspect was alleged to be Mr. Robert Vagramov, the current mayor of Port Moody.

The Assistant Deputy Attorney General Peter Juk QC (ADAG) appointed Mr. Klein Special Prosecutor under section 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 identity of the accused as an elected municipal official.

Mr. Klein is a senior Vancouver lawyer in private practice. He 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. Mr. Klein has now approved a single charge of sexual assault contrary to section 271 of the *Criminal Code* against Mr. Vagramov. His first appearance on this matter is scheduled for April 25, 2019 in Port Coquitlam Provincial Court, file #101775.

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 BCPS nor the Special Prosecutor will be making any further comment or releasing any further information.

The BCPS policy on Special Prosecutors and a related Information Sheet can be found at:

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

[Role of Special Prosecutors](#)

The Charge Assessment Guidelines that are applied by the BCPS and Special Prosecutors in reviewing all RCCs are established in Branch policy and are available at:

www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines

Media Contact: Dan McLaughlin
Communications Counsel
Daniel.McLaughlin@gov.bc.ca
250.387.5169

To learn more about B.C.'s criminal justice system, visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice or follow [@bcprosecution](https://twitter.com/bcprosecution) on Twitter.