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Special Prosecutor approves charges alleging misappropriation of funds from Chilliwack MLA constituency office

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Special Prosecutor Robin McFee QC has approved charges involving allegations of theft of money from the constituency office of Chilliwack MLA John Martin. Desmond Michael Devnich has now been charged with two counts of fraud over \$5000 contrary to section 380(1) of the *Criminal Code* and two counts of breach of trust by a public officer contrary to section 122 of the *Criminal Code*.

The charges cover the time period from June 25, 2013 to February 27, 2017. Mr. Devnich is scheduled to make his first appearance on these charges on October 8, 2019 in Chilliwack Provincial Court, file # 69467-1.

On January 31, 2019 the BCPS announced that Robin McFee QC had been appointed Special Prosecutor to provide legal advice to the RCMP during the investigation of these allegations. Mr. McFee 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. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor is intended to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of justice.

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 is now before the court neither the BCPS nor Mr. McFee will comment further or release any additional information at this time.

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