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20-05

## Special Prosecutor Appointed

**Victoria** - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that on March 5, 2020 Dirk Ryneveld QC was appointed Special Prosecutor in relation to allegations of mischief and trespass by individuals at the home of John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia.

Assistant Deputy Attorney General Peter Juk QC, appointed Mr. Ryneveld as 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 involvement of the Premier as a potential witness.

Mr. Ryneveld is a senior Victoria lawyer in private practice. He was given a mandate to conduct an independent assessment of the Report to Crown Counsel and, if he concluded that a prosecution was warranted, to conduct the prosecution and any subsequent appeal. Mr. Ryneveld has now approved charges of mischief contrary to Section 430(4) of the *Criminal Code* against Howard Gerard Breen, Regine Monika Klein, and Mark William Nykanen. The accused are scheduled to appear on July 15, 2020 in Colwood Provincial Court, information #21926-1.

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

[www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines](http://www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines)

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 considering the specific circumstances of the case, the BCPS 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 Mr. Ryneveld will comment further or release any additional information at this time.

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