



August 10, 2021

21-09

## **Special Prosecutors decline to approve further charges following conclusion of investigation at BC Legislature**

**Victoria** - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that David Butcher QC and Brock Martland QC have declined to approve any further charges following the receipt of the final Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) submitted by police investigating the activities of senior staff at the British Columbia Legislature. The Special Prosecutors concluded that the charge assessment standard was not met with respect to any charges beyond those that have already been approved.

On November 20, 2018, the BCPS announced that the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the BCPS, Peter Juk QC, had appointed Mr. Butcher and Mr. Martland as Special Prosecutors to provide legal advice to the RCMP during the investigation of these allegations. Both Mr. Butcher and Mr. Martland are senior counsel with the private bar in Vancouver.

On December 18, 2020, the BCPS announced that the Special Prosecutors had approved charges against Craig Harley James of breach of trust by a public officer and fraud in excess of \$5000.

The charge assessment guidelines applied by the BCPS and Special Prosecutors in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in the BCPS Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at:

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

As the James matter is currently before the court neither the Special Prosecutors nor the BCPS will be releasing additional information or commenting further at this time. If, at the end of all related court proceedings, the Special Prosecutors determine it to be in the public interest that further information about this matter should be provided to the public, the Special Prosecutors will issue a Clear Statement in consultation with the BCPS. For general 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.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/spe-1.pdf)

[www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/information-sheets/role-special-prosecutors.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/information-sheets/role-special-prosecutors.pdf)

Media Contact: Dan McLaughlin  
Communications Counsel  
[Daniel.McLaughlin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Daniel.McLaughlin@gov.bc.ca)  
250.387.5169

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