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21-12

Special Prosecutor Appointed

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Richard Fowler QC has been appointed Special Prosecutor to provide legal assistance and advice to the RCMP in relation to an investigation that was initiated by a complaint from the Mayor of Surrey.

On September 13, 2021, Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the BCPS, Peter Juk QC (ADAG) received a request from the RCMP for assistance from the BCPS during the early stages of the investigation.

The ADAG concluded that, in light of the nature of the allegations, the Mayor's position as a public official in a senior position of authority, and the ongoing public discussion about the change from the RCMP to a municipal police force in Surrey, a Special Prosecutor should be appointed. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor is intended to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of justice. The ADAG appointed Mr. Fowler as Special Prosecutor under section 7 of the *Crown Counsel Act* because he considered it in the public interest to do so.

Mr. Fowler is a senior Vancouver lawyer in private practice. He was given a mandate to provide legal advice to the investigators as may be necessary, conduct any related charge assessment, and assume conduct of the prosecution if charges are approved.

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

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/spe-1.pdf>
[Role of Special Prosecutors](#)

As this matter is now under investigation, neither the BCPS nor the Special Prosecutor will be making any further comment.

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