



May 26, 2023

23-10

Appointment of Special Prosecutor

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS), announced today that on May 4, 2023, Mr. John M. Gordon KC was appointed Special Prosecutor in relation to an investigation of an election candidate, Ms. Gurveen Dhaliwal, who was ultimately elected as a member of the Board of Education for New Westminster Schools, for being present at a voting place as a scrutineer. On May 1, 2023, Ms. Dhaliwal was appointed as a ministerial advisor to the Minister of Health.

The Assistant Deputy Attorney General Peter Juk KC (ADAG) appointed Mr. Gordon 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 considering the nature of the allegations and the identity of the accused as an elected public official and a political appointee.

Mr. Gordon 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 any charge is approved.

Following consultation with the Special Prosecutor, the BCPS concluded that issuing a media statement was appropriate at this time. 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

www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/information-sheets/infosheet_role-specialprosecutors.pdf

The Charge Assessment Guidelines to be applied by the Special Prosecutor, which are the same as those applied by regular Crown Counsel, are established in BCPS policy and are available at:

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

As the charge assessment process is ongoing, neither the BCPS nor the Special Prosecutor will be making any further comment or releasing any further information.

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

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