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24-03

Special Prosecutor approves assault charges following Vancouver investigation

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Chris Johnson KC has been appointed as a Special Prosecutor following an investigation by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) into assaults which allegedly occurred on February 2, 2024, near the provincial courthouse at 222 Main Street. One of the alleged victims is a Crown Counsel, employed with the BCPS.

Mr. Johnson’s mandate includes: to provide legal advice to the VPD investigators as necessary, conduct charge assessment, and assume conduct of the prosecution. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor was made to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of justice given that one of the alleged victims is employed as Crown Counsel.

An Information charging Kenyon Thomas Lavalée with one count of assault, contrary to section 266 of the *Criminal Code*, and one count of assault causing bodily harm, contrary to section 267(b) of the *Criminal Code*, was sworn on February 5, 2024, under Downtown Community Court file number 36927-2C. The next appearance is scheduled for February 14, 2024, in Vancouver Provincial Court.

The charge assessment guidelines applied by the Special Prosecutor and the BCPS 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

As this matter is now before the court neither the Special Prosecutor nor the BCPS will be releasing additional information or commenting further at this time.

Media Contact: Damienne Darby
 Communications Counsel
 BCPSmedia@gov.bc.ca
 236.468.3832

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