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BC Prosecution Service announces appointment of a Special Prosecutor

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Gail Barnes has been appointed as a Special Prosecutor following an investigation by the Nanaimo RCMP into allegations of offences that allegedly occurred on September 2, 2024, in Nanaimo. Two of the alleged victims are extended family members of a Crown Counsel employed with the BCPS.

Ms. Barnes is a senior lawyer in private practice in the Lower Mainland. Her mandate includes the following: providing legal advice to the investigative agency as necessary, conducting an independent assessment of the Report to Crown Counsel and any supplemental material that may be submitted, and assuming 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.

On September 3, 2024, an Information was sworn charging Christopher Douglas Bartos with two counts of break and enter, robbery, aggravated assault, theft of a motor vehicle and breach of a release order under Nanaimo court file 92595-1. On September 11, 2024, a new Information was sworn adding seven additional charges under court file 92595-2C. On October 23, 2024, Ms. Barnes approved three additional charges under court file 92595-3C. The next appearance is scheduled for November 6, 2024, at Port Alberni Law Courts.

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.

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