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25-01

BC Prosecution Service announces appointment of a Special Prosecutor

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that on December 9, 2024, Chris Johnson KC was appointed as a Special Prosecutor following an investigation by the Westshore RCMP into allegations of an offence on September 9, 2024, in Langford. One of the accused was recently determined to be related to a provincial court judge.

Mr. Johnson is a senior lawyer in private practice in the Lower Mainland. His mandate includes providing legal advice to the investigative agency as necessary, conducting an independent assessment of the current charge based on the Report to Crown Counsel submitted by the investigative agency, making the charging decision appropriate in the exercise of his independent discretion, 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 October 30, 2024, Information 25203 was sworn charging Savannah Theresa Cooke and Scott William John Munro with unlawfully being in a dwelling house, contrary to section 349(1) of the *Criminal Code*. The next appearance is scheduled for January 23, 2025, at Western Communities 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 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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