



July 29, 2025

25-16

## BC Prosecution Service announces decision of Special Prosecutor

**Victoria** – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today Special Prosecutor Christopher Considine KC has approved charges of theft and fraud against Joanne Lynette McCormick, a resident of Nanaimo.

In December 2021, the Vancouver Island District RCMP contacted the BCPS in relation to an investigation into allegations of fraud and theft of funds from a non-profit agency in Nanaimo by Joanne McCormick, the spouse of a Crown Counsel. In these circumstances, the Assistant Deputy Attorney General determined that it was in the public interest to appoint a Special Prosecutor. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor is intended to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of justice.

On December 14, 2021, Christopher Considine KC was appointed as a Special Prosecutor in relation to this matter. Mr. Considine is a senior lawyer in private practice in Victoria. His mandate included providing legal advice to the investigative agency, conducting an independent assessment of the Report to Crown Counsel and supplemental material, and assuming conduct of the prosecution in the event charges were approved. Mr. Considine's mandate expanded in May 2024 to include a separate investigation involving a business in Nanaimo.

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

*Special Prosecutors* ([SPE 1](#))

[Role of Special Prosecutors](#)

In assessing potential charges, Special Prosecutors apply BCPS policies, set out in the *Crown Counsel Policy Manual*. The charge assessment guidelines applied by Crown Counsel and Special Prosecutors are available online at:

*Charge Assessment Guidelines* ([CHA 1](#))

On July 29, 2025, Joanne McCormick was charged with two counts of theft over \$5,000 and two counts of fraud over \$5,000. The dates of the alleged offences are April 10, 2019 to October 28, 2021, and November 21, 2022 to April 8, 2024. Ms. McCormick was arrested by police and released on an undertaking to appear in Nanaimo provincial court on September 30, 2025.

Announcement of the appointment of the Special Prosecutor was postponed pending completion of the police investigation and the charge assessment process. Following consultation with the Special Prosecutor, the BCPS concluded that issuing a Media Statement was appropriate at this time.

Neither the BCPS nor the Special Prosecutor will be releasing additional information or commenting further while this matter is before the court.

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