



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Afghanistan Public Interest Hearing - Change of Lead Counsel

Ms. Freya Kristjanson, Partner of Cavalluzzo, Hayes, Shilton, McIntyre & Cornish in Toronto has served the Commission since the spring of 2008. Upon assuming the position as Lead Counsel for the Afghanistan Public Interest Hearings, Ms. Kristjanson committed to be in Ottawa until December 2008 by which time it was forecast that the file would be concluded. The Commission appreciates that Ms. Kristjanson agreed to stay on when the hearings were extended because of delays and legal complications.

The hearings have now been adjourned pending the appeal of the September 16, 2009 Federal Court decision regarding the Commission's jurisdiction as well as until issues relating to documentation and disclosure to the parties are resolved. This will, inevitably, take some time. As a result, both the Commission and Ms. Kristjanson believe that this is an appropriate time for her to return to her practice in Toronto. The present status of the Commission's process will give another counsel time to assume the position of Lead Counsel. Ms. Kristjanson will continue to consult with the Commission during the transition period.

The Commission wishes to thank Ms. Kristjanson for her effective and tireless efforts on its behalf. In spite of the many legal challenges faced, Ms. Kristjanson guided the Commission through difficult terrain in a fair, transparent and independent manner.

Mr. Ron Lunau, Partner, Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP in Ottawa, who has already been involved with certain aspects of the Commission's Afghanistan inquiry process, will assume the role as Lead Counsel for the Afghanistan Public Interest Hearing.

For more information, please contact Nancy-Ann Walker, Communications Officer at (613) 947-5668 or by email at NancyAnn.Walker@mpcc-cppm.gc.ca.

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