



## **CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY**

### **STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER G. NORMAND GLAUDE**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2009**

WE HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE PROCESS OF RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS IN RESPECT TO THE FIRST PART OF THIS COMMISSION'S MANDATE. THAT IS, OF COURSE, THE INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO ALLEGATIONS OF HISTORICAL ABUSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CORNWALL AREA. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS ON POSSIBLE FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR RESPONSE IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL COUNSEL FOR THEIR ADVOCACY WORK BEFORE ME DURING THE COURSE OF THIS INQUIRY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO WERE NOT COUNSEL BUT HAD SIGNIFICANT AND VALUABLE ROLES IN PROVIDING INFORMATION, SUPPORT AND PERSPECTIVES TO THEIR COUNSEL.

THIS ALSO ADVANCED THE WORK OF THIS INQUIRY. THE WORK OF COUNSEL AND THEIR COLLEAGUES CULMINATED IN THE PROVISION OF EXTENSIVE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND ORAL SUBMISSIONS MADE THIS WEEK. AS I INDICATED ON MONDAY, THESE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED IN THE FORMULATION OF MY REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO.

I AM AWARE THAT IN FORMULATING WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND FOCUSING ON KEY POINTS FOR ORAL SUBMISSIONS, THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF MATERIAL TO GO THROUGH. THIS INQUIRY HEARD FROM 167 WITNESSES AND RECEIVED 12 OVERVIEWS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OVER A TOTAL OF 345 HEARING DAYS. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 3,640 EXHIBITS, INCLUDING 57 BOOKS OF DOCUMENTS FOR CONTEXTUAL AND EXPERT WITNESSES.

MANY HARDWORKING AND CAPABLE INDIVIDUALS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN PLACE TO CONDUCT THIS INQUIRY. I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. IN DOING SO, I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR MANY WHO HAVE WORKED WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS, AND NOT ONLY FOR MYSELF AS COMMISSIONER.

EACH DAY OF HEARINGS HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN TRANSCRIPTS DELIVERED OVER NIGHT, WITHOUT FAIL, AND POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE. THIS HAS FACILITATED THE WORK OF ALL COUNSEL AND ENHANCED ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR THE PUBLIC. I WANT TO THANK INTERNATIONAL REPORTING AND ALL THEIR STAFF WHO CARRIED OUT THIS CRITICAL WORK SO CONSISTENTLY SINCE OUR FIRST HEARING DAY.

ONE OF THE HALLMARKS OF THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY HAS BEEN ITS BILINGUAL CHARACTER. THIS HAS BEEN IMPORTANT TO ME – THAT THERE SHOULD BE CAPACITY FOR THOSE TESTIFYING TO SPEAK IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH. AND IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT THOSE WHO MAY NOT UNDERSTAND BOTH LANGUAGES CAN HEAR AN ACCURATE TRANSLATION. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR EXCELLENT SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS FROM RAYMOND SAINT LAURENT AND ASSOCIATES FOR THEIR WORK IN HELPING US MEET OUR IMPORTANT OBLIGATIONS TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY WEB-BASED TECHNOLOGIES. I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE BROADCAST MEDIA SERVICES BY GUY BENNETT AND WILL ROSE OF AVOLUTION MULTIMEDIA. OUR EXTENSIVE WEBSITE HAS BEEN EXPERTLY DESIGNED AND MAINTAINED BY DJORDJE SREDOJEVIC.

I HAVE SPOKEN OF THE EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTARY RECORD BEFORE THIS INQUIRY. ALL COUNSEL ARE AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANT EFFORT AND EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO MANAGE THESE DOCUMENTS. I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF SHERRI MCARTHUR AND HER RESEARCH TEAM OF JANET GEORGE AND LORI BEAUDETTE IN THIS ESSENTIAL UNDERTAKING ON BEHALF OF US ALL.

COMMISSION STAFF HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FACILITIES AND PROCESSES THAT PERMIT HEARINGS TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. THEY ENSURE WE HAVE WHAT IS NEEDED TO CONDUCT HEARINGS AND TO COMMUNICATE ON OUR WEBSITE. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE COURT CLERKS WHO HAVE HELPED US SO ABLY IN THIS ROOM, BRIGITTE BEAULNE, JULIE GAUTHIER, LOUISE MONGEON, AND LORI BEAUDETTE. I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO MANAGED SO CAPABLY BEHIND THE SCENES: ANNA DEVUONO AND LISE KOSLOSKI. MY THANKS ALSO GO TO MONIQUE SEGUIN, WHO ESTABLISHED OUR PROCESSES AND FACILITIES HERE IN CORNWALL.

TOMORROW WE WILL MOVE TO SUBMISSIONS RELATED TO PHASE 2 – HEALING AND RECONCILIATION. I INVITE YOU ALL TO RETURN FOR THIS IMPORTANT CONCLUSION TO THE SUBMISSIONS PROCESS.