



COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF PHOENIX SINCLAIR

REVISED SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED BY COMMISSIONER HUGHES

Earlier this week, I met with Counsel representing all Parties, Intervenors and Media. The meeting was prompted by concerns relating to readiness for both the Publication Ban Motion, to be argued in "open" session, scheduled for June 12, 13 and 14, 2012, and the commencement of the presentation of evidence scheduled for July 4, 2012 and to continue until August 2, 2012 when a summer break would occur, with resumption on September 4, 2012.

Several parties have brought Motions with respect to the Publication Ban issue. Seventeen affidavits, often lengthy and extensive, with numerous exhibits, have been filed by those participating. Cross-examination has taken place on a number of the affidavits and transcripts are in the process of being distributed to the parties. In total, hundreds of pages are involved. Counsel have requested a short additional period in which to adequately prepare. There is merit in the request. Reluctantly, I have decided to accede to it.

The accommodation of the Publication Ban delay request has made the start date of July 4, 2012 problematic. Added to that, is the concern of some Counsel that the volume of documentation resulting from interviews of approximately 140 witnesses by Commission Counsel has made readiness by July 4, 2012 questionable. Of those interviewed, Commission Counsel expect to call approximately 100 of them to the witness stand. In each of those instances, summaries of the anticipated evidence have or are being supplied to the interviewee and subsequently a copy of each has or is being delivered to all of the Parties and Intervenors with standing. Again, hundreds of pages of material are involved and the Commission Disclosure List, which I indicated six months ago stood at 1,738, has now risen to 2,088. I accept the validity of the concern expressed by some Counsel with respect to readiness on July 4, 2012. Again, reluctantly I have decided I must, in a minimal way, accommodate that concern.

As a result, with acceptance and concurrence of all Counsel, the following revised schedule has been agreed upon:

Publication Ban Motion - July 4, 5, and if necessary, July 6, 2012
Decision of Publication Ban Motion - delivered orally July 12, 2012
Commencement of presentation of evidence - September 5, 2012
and to continue four days per week until December 20, 2012

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 7th day of June, 2012.

The Hon. Ted Hughes, Commissioner