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A Notary Public in and for the Province of Manitoba

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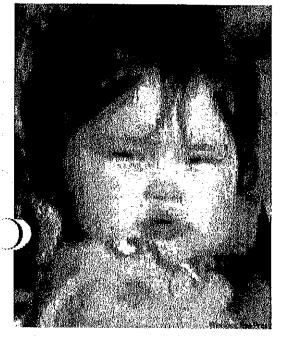
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Winnipeg Free Press - ONLINE EDITION

Sinclair inquiry delayed until July 4

By: Larry Kusch

Posted: 02/24/2012 11:13 AM | Comments: 0 (including replies)g



Enlarge Image

Phoenix Sinclair (CNS CNS)

The public inquiry into the death of Phoenix Sinclair will now begin on July 4 — a delay of six weeks from its original schedule.

The commission conducting the inquiry posted its revised schedule on its web site earlier this week.

It was to begin hearing witness testimony on May 23, but that date became unworkable after the Manitoba Government and General Employees Union (MGEU) concluded the inquiry, established 10 months ago, was overstepping its bounds and the province lacked the authority to call such a hearing. Earlier this month, the union took its case to the Manitoba Court of Appeal. But an appeal court judge rejected its arguments.

Commission counsel Sherri Walsh said at the time that the legal action would cause delays as pre-hearing interviews with dozens of Child and Family Services workers would need to be rescheduled.

Phoenix was five years old when she was murdered in 2005. But it took more than nine months for officials to even realize

she was missing, despite the fact she had been in the care of Child and Family Services and only recently returned to her birth mother. Her remains were found in 2006 in the dump on the Fisher River First Nation.

Phoenix's mother, Samantha Kematch, and stepfather, Karl McKay, were convicted of first-degree murder in 2008 in connection with their daughter's death and given life sentences with no chance of parole for at least 25 years.

The NDP government called the inquiry to examine the circumstances that led to her death, following a period of abuse that included prolonged beatings and broken bones all the way from her pelvis to her skull. Why various child-welfare agencies failed Phoenix is the key subject of the inquiry.

The inquiry will be led by Ted Hughes, a former Court of Queen's Bench judge in Saskatchewan and mer B.C. deputy attorney general. He has extensive experience conducting inquiries in several provinces including Manitoba, where he probed the 1996 riot at Headingley Correctional Institution.

According to the revised schedule, the inquiry will begin its summer break, as originally planned, on

Sean Holmes

1:38 PM on 2/24/2012

What exactly is an inquiry going to change? Sounds like a big waste of time to me.

<u>I reply</u>
Report Abuse



Score: 4

Curlingmom

1:48 PM on 2/24/2012

That picture of her breaks my heart everytime I see it. Poor little baby.

<u>l reply</u> Report Abuse



Score: 6

carol4

1:49 PM on 2/24/2012

if the social workers responsible for this child would have made home visits and checked on her wellbeing they wouldn't be in this position...what position is that....being held accountable for their actions. Now lets get on with it, and let heads roll....and firing begin.

Report Abuse



Score: 4

the elitist communist

2:00 PM on 2/24/2012