

MGEU, ANCR/Authorities and ICFS proposal for restrictions on media coverage

Some arrangements have been made to assist media planning to cover the proceedings and there are limitations media may need to be aware of:

1. *A limited number of tables in the hearing room will be reserved for media use.*
2. *The Commission will NOT be supplying video. Unless otherwise directed by the Commissioner, only one video camera and operator, selected and supplied by the media, is allowed to be set up in a designated area in the hearing room. It must provide a pool video feed to all media outlets at the proceeding. A feed box with standard BNC video input and outputs will be supplied by the Commission. Media must supply their own equipment and personnel to record the feed.*
3. *The pool video camera must remain fixed on a tripod in the designated area within the hearing room. It must be in place prior to the hearing being called into session and must not be removed from the tripod at any time during the hearing. The camera may only be removed during a break in the proceedings. Only the available room light is permitted as lighting.*
4. *An audio feed will be provided. Media will be required to provide their own audio XLR-type connectors, and must also provide their own video and audio recording equipment and personnel. Media must not place microphones or tape recorders at the counsel tables, clerk's table, or on the Commissioner's dais.*
5. *All media are asked to set up their pool feed recording equipment in the feed area prior to the start of the public session between the time of 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.*
6. ***All witnesses will testify in person at the hearing. Their identities will be revealed to those in attendance. There will be no restrictions placed on who can attend the hearing. This will be an open public hearing, subject to any ruling by the Commissioner that a portion of the hearing be heard "in-camera".***
7. ***Prior to calling a witness, Commission Counsel will advise as to whether the witness is subject to a Publication Ban. If so, there will be a ban on the media publishing, broadcasting, streaming, or otherwise communicating by television, internet, and radio, in print or by any other means, the name, face or identity of any such witness.***
8. ***Live streaming of the hearing with a 5-minute delay in broadcasting is permitted. When a witness subject to a Publication Ban is testifying, the pool video camera can remain on, but it cannot show the witness' face nor can the witness' name be mentioned. If by accident the witness' face or name is revealed, the 5 minute delay will be used to allow for the stream to be edited before it is publically streamed.***
9. ***During the swearing in of a witness subject to a Publication Ban, the pool video camera will be turned off.***
10. ***Once a witness subject to a Publication Ban has been sworn in, the witness will be given a pseudonym based on the order in which they testify (i.e. the first social worker to testify will be "SW#1", the second "SW#2" etc..)***

11. *Scrums will not be permitted in the hearing room. Still photography and video cutaway shots will NOT be allowed. Subject to the rulings of the Commissioner, they may be permitted at the start of the public session.*
12. *Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off when entering the hearing room. Alternatively, as long as the ringers are turned off and they are not used to communicate verbally, **take pictures or video**, these devices may be used in the hearing room, unless otherwise directed by the Commissioner.*
13. *Public exhibits may be viewed by the media in the hearing room at the end of the public session. Subject to rulings of the Commissioner, exhibits and transcripts available in electronic format may also be posted at www.phoenixsinclairinquiry.ca. **However, all exhibits and transcripts will be redacted to remove the names of social workers testifying and will be replaced by their pseudonym before being posted on the website.***