



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 18, 2008

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS NEW POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

Victoria – Stan Lowe has been recommended to the Legislative Assembly as the province’s third Police Complaint Commissioner. The all-party Special Committee to Appoint a Police Complaint Commissioner presented its unanimous recommendation in a report released today. It is expected that Mr. Lowe will take up his duties in mid-February 2009.

Throughout his distinguished legal career, Mr. Lowe has specialized in criminal law. He is currently the Communications Counsel for the Criminal Justice Branch, serving as a conduit to the public and the news media for B.C.’s prosecution service.

“Members of the committee have unanimously recommended Mr. Lowe for the important position of Police Complaint Commissioner,” said committee chair John Rustad. “We believe he has the right combination of communication skills and leadership experience to build upon the work of his predecessors, Don Morrison, QC and Dirk Ryneveld, QC, and to promote the importance of civilian oversight during the next six years. All three individuals have had distinguished careers as Crown Counsel.”

“We are fortunate to have recruited Mr. Lowe, who has considerable experience as a lecturer on legal topics related to police training and the appropriate use of force,” added deputy chair Leonard Krog.

The Police Complaint Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislature who holds office for a non-renewable term of six years. The position was created in 1998, under Part 9 of the *Police Act* (RSBC 1996, c.367), to ensure that investigations about municipal police forces and other law enforcement agencies are handled fairly and impartially.

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Bio attached.

The members of the Special Committee to Appoint a Police Complaint Commissioner are:

John Rustad, MLA	Chair	Prince George-Omineca
Leonard Krog, MLA	Deputy Chair	Nanaimo
Harry Bloy, MLA		Burquitlam
Mike Farnworth, MLA		Port Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
John Nuraney, MLA		Burnaby-Willington

The report can be found on the parliamentary committees’ website at <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/>, or by contacting:

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Stan T. Lowe, LL.B

Stan Lowe was born in Calgary, Alberta and moved to Vancouver in 1985 to attend law school at the University of British Columbia. He obtained his law degree in 1988, was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1989, and began his legal career with Davis & Company in Vancouver.

Mr Lowe joined the Vancouver Crown Counsel office in 1990 in pursuit of a career in the courtroom. In June 1991, Mr. Lowe joined the Victoria Crown Counsel office on Vancouver Island. Mr. Lowe's family had early roots in that community, as both his father and grandmother were born and raised in Victoria's Chinatown. In the early 1900s, his grandfather worked as a cook at various establishments, including the CP Empress Hotel.

In 1996, Mr. Lowe joined the Major Crimes Prosecutions Unit for Vancouver Island and for nine years he prosecuted primarily murder cases. During this period he liaised with numerous municipal police departments and the RCMP. One of his most well-known cases was Regina v. Warren Glowatski (Reena Virk Murder). During his tenure in the Major Crimes Unit, he also participated in the Provincial Residential School Prosecutions Project, where he had conduct of a prosecution involving multiple victims who attended Kuper Island Residential School in the 1960s.

In 2005, Mr. Lowe became the Communications Counsel for the Criminal Justice Branch, serving as a conduit to the media and public for BC's Prosecution Service. During this time, he became a member of Executive Branch Management, where he has shared his expertise in a number of areas.

Throughout his 18 years as a public servant, Mr. Lowe has been a guest lecturer on legal topics related to police training including the Major Crime Investigators Course, Senior Investigators Course, and Undercover Operations Course. He has also lectured to Professional Standards Officers in BC on the law regarding the use of force, on behalf of the Police Complaint Commissioner.

Mr. Lowe and his wife Christine have three daughters.