



**CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY – PHASE 2
MEDIA BRIEFING NOTES**

**COLLEEN PARRISH, DIRECTOR OF POLICY
NOVEMBER 28, 2007**

I HAVE GIVEN TWO PREVIOUS PHASE 2 MEDIA BRIEFINGS, INTENDED TO GIVE BACKGROUND ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN PHASE 2 OF THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY AND WHAT IS COMING UP OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS OR SO. I HOPE THIS IS USEFUL AND OF COURSE I CAN ALSO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND AM AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME AT INQUIRY OFFICES OR YOU CAN CALL 613.938.2127.

PHASE 2, AS YOU KNOW, IS ABOUT BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS HEALING AND RECONCILIATION. WE WORK WITH PARTIES, THE CORNWALL COMMUNITY, THOSE AFFECTED BY CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE AND INTERESTED PROFESSIONALS TO:

- CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A HEALING ENVIRONMENT IN CORNWALL;

- CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSION ABOUT THE RANGE OF APPROACHES TO RENEWAL;
- DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR THE DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES IN CORNWALL – BOTH PERSONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL;
- GET AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES, SOLUTIONS AND BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES SO THAT WE CAN HAVE WELL-FOUNDED AND SUSTAINABLE PHASE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE – RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CAN HAPPEN.

PHASE 2 IS NOT VERY THEORETICAL OR ACADEMIC – IT CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON “DOING”. WE HAVE FIVE PARTS IN PHASE 2 – SO I WILL REITERATE WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE FIVE PARTS, AS I HAVE IN THE PAST.

COUNSELLING SUPPORT – WHAT’S HAPPENED SO FAR?

- WE HAVE BEEN OPERATIONAL SINCE MID-MARCH 2006. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 260 FILES AND 28 COUNSELLING SUPPORT PROVIDERS; ABOUT 254 ARE APPROVED FOR COUNSELLING BUT NOT EVERYONE GOES EVERY MONTH;

- COUNSELLING SUPPORT WAS EXTENDED FROM ITS ORIGINAL END DATE OF MARCH 2007 FOLLOWING THE STRONG RESULTS FROM AN INDEPENDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY, WHICH IS POSTED ONLINE ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.CORNWALLINQUIRY.CA. THE DATE OF EXTENSION BY THE COMMISSIONER IS TO THE DATE OF THE RELEASE OF HIS INQUIRY REPORT PLUS 90 DAYS; A DECISION WAS ALSO MADE TO STOP INTAKES FOR NEW CLIENTS ON MARCH 31, 2008, UNLESS FURTHER EXTENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

- WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A TRANSITION COMMITTEE FROM THE COMMUNITY AND FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO HELP DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR THE TRANSITION OF COUNSELLING SUPPORT WHEN THE INQUIRY ENDS. WE APPRECIATE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THIS GROUP.

COUNSELLING SUPPORT – WHAT TO EXPECT?

- WE WILL REVIEW THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE DEADLINE FOR INTAKE OF NEW PARTICIPANTS SHOULD STAY AT MARCH 31, 2008 OR BE EXTENDED OR ALTERED IN ANY WAY.

- WE WILL CONSULT WITH THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE AND ALL PARTIES TO FIND OUT THEIR VIEWS AND ADVICE;
- WHATEVER THE DECISION, THE COMMISSIONER PLANS TO MAKE IT IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY SO WE CAN ENSURE IT IS WELL COMMUNICATED PRIOR TO MARCH 31, 2008;
- WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER COUNSELLING SUPPORT AND PLAN FOR ANY TRANSITION WHEN THE INQUIRY ENDS.

COUNSELLING SUPPORT – WHAT HAS IT COST?

- TO DATE, COUNSELLING SUPPORT HAS AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS OF ABOUT \$1.1 MILLION. ABOUT \$98,000 HAS BEEN FOR TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE SO THAT PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN RURAL OR MORE DISTANT LOCALES CAN GET TO THEIR COUNSELLORS.

WITNESS SUPPORT – WHAT’S HAPPENED SO FAR?

- WITNESS SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO WITNESSES AT THE INQUIRY – LIKE COUNSELLING SUPPORT, IT IS A “FIRST” FOR ONTARIO INQUIRIES;

- TO DATE, 38 FILES HAVE BEEN OPENED FOR WITNESS SUPPORT CLIENTS;
- THE COMMISSIONER, IN HIS JUNE 2007 UPDATE STATEMENT, INDICATED THAT WITNESS SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO ANY WITNESS – INCLUDING COMMUNITY CONTEXT AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE WITNESSES.

WITNESS SUPPORT – WHAT TO EXPECT?

- CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF WITNESS SUPPORT. WITNESSES CAN REQUEST THE SERVICES OR SUPPORT THEY WANT.

WITNESS SUPPORT – WHAT HAS IT COST?

- BECAUSE THE COSTS ARE SMALL, SEPARATE ACCOUNTS ARE NOT MAINTAINED FOR WITNESS SUPPORT. IT'S WITHIN THE OVERALL CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY EXPENDITURES AND BUDGET.

ADVISORY PANEL OUTREACH – WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- THE ADVISORY PANEL HAS A VERY STRONG BACKGROUND AND A DESIRE AND CAPACITY BOTH TO GIVE GOOD ADVICE

AND WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY ON THE PROCESS OF RENEWAL. THEY SEEK PRACTICAL, “MADE IN CORNWALL” APPROACHES AND BELIEVE IN -- AND EXERCISE -- PERSISTENCE!

- SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN:
 - 48 SMALL COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO HEAR WHAT PEOPLE THINK AND WANT, LARGELY IN 2006 AND EARLY 2007;
 - 5 NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS IN THE FALL OF 2007;
 - 3 “TOWN HALL” MEETINGS – MAY, JUNE AND OCTOBER 2007;
 - WE ALSO BRIEFED CITY COUNCIL IN AN OPEN COUNCIL SESSION ON AUGUST 13, 2007.

- PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST HAS BEEN STRONG AND GROWING – IF YOU LOOK ONLINE WHERE WE POST THE MINUTES AT WWW.CORNWALLINQUIRY.CA. YOU CAN SEE THE RANGE OF COMMUNITY GENERATED IDEAS AND RESPONSES TO PHASE 2.

ADVISORY PANEL OUTREACH – WHAT TO EXPECT?

NUMEROUS EVENTS INVOLVING THE ADVISORY PANEL ARE SCHEDULED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. SOME INTERSECT WITH THE RESEARCH OR OTHER PARTS OF THE PHASE 2 AGENDA, WHICH WILL BE DETAILED IN LATER SECTIONS. THE ADVISORY PANEL OFTEN ACTS AS HOST FOR VARIOUS PHASE 2 ACTIVITIES, IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES INVOLVING THE ADVISORY PANEL COMING UP:

- MEMBERS OF THE PANEL WILL BE CHAIRING WORKSHOPS ON APOLOGIES (JAN. 17, 2008) AND AN OMBUDSMAN OR OTHER MECHANISM TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ASSAULT (FEB. 20, 2008);

- ON APRIL 15, 2008, THE PANEL WILL BE HOSTING AN EVENT ON INTERNET RISKS IN RESPECT TO CHILD EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE – AND USING THE INTERNET AND WORLD-WIDE COOPERATION TO FIND ABUSERS – LEADING EXPERTS WILL BE COMING;

- THE PANEL WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO HANDLE THE PART OF THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY'S MANDATE THAT RELATES TO "*OPPORTUNITIES APART FROM FORMAL EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS*" FOR INDIVIDUALS TO EXPRESS THEIR EXPERIENCES AND IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES – CONSULTATION MEETINGS ARE NOVEMBER 29-30, 2007. THERE IS MORE DETAIL ON THIS FURTHER IN THE BRIEFING;

ADVISORY PANEL OUTREACH – WHAT DID IT COST?

ALL ADVISORY PANEL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MEETINGS, TOWN HALLS, NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS HAVE COST ABOUT \$210,000 SO FAR.

ACTION RESEARCH AGENDA – WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

THE IDEA BEHIND ACTION RESEARCH WAS TO BE PRACTICAL AND HELPFUL. WE ASKED FOR IDEAS BOTH FROM PARTIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND CORNWALL COMMUNITY.

FOLLOWING A PUBLIC CALL FOR PROPOSALS, THE ADVISORY PANEL REVIEWED ALL IDEAS AND THOSE THOUGHT WORTHY OF PROCEEDING WERE RECOMMENDED TO THE COMMISSIONER. THE COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCED PROJECTS HE THOUGHT SHOULD PROCEED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2007. THE DOOR WAS "LEFT

OPEN” FOR ANYONE WHO WANTED TO COME FORWARD WITH A COMMUNITY-BASED PROPOSAL. THAT PROPOSAL – FROM PREV ACTION, A COMMUNITY GROUP – WAS APPROVED THIS MONTH BY THE COMMISSIONER.

HERE IS WHAT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH:

- PARTY RESEARCH – WHICH IS RECOMMENDED AND SUPERVISED OR CARRIED OUT BY PARTIES – FOUR PROJECTS ARE PROCEEDING. FUNDING FOR PARTY RESEARCH IS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER BUT PAID BY THE MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:
 - A SELF-HELP AND EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE BY SOSA (SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT) – MOST SOSA MEMBERS ARE PART OF THE VICTIMS GROUP;
 - A RESEARCH DISCUSSION PAPER BY THE MEN’S PROJECT ON THE USEFULNESS OF AN OMBUDSMAN OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CHILDHOOD ABUSE AND HISTORICAL ABUSE;

- A PROJECT TO DEVELOP A GUIDEBOOK AND MANUAL FOR SELF-HELP INITIATIVES, BY THE MEN’S PROJECT;
- A “HOW TO” MANUAL BY THE MEN’S PROJECT FOR THOSE LOOKING AT SETTING UP SERVICES FOR MALE VICTIMS OR SEXUAL ABUSE OR TO ENHANCE EXISTING SERVICES.
- 6 TRAINING COURSES FOR PROFESSIONALS, PAID FOR BY THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY AND PROVIDED AT NO COST TO PARTICIPANTS. COMPLETED TRAINING INCLUDES:
 - COURSE ON MALE SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION – OFFERED IN CORNWALL ON NOVEMBER 14-15, 2007. 28 PROFESSIONALS ATTENDED.
 - A MENTORSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM TO CONNECT VOLUNTEER MENTORS WITH THOSE NEEDING A MENTOR – THOSE SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF A MENTOR HAVE A HISTORY OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE AND SOME MENTORS ALSO HAVE A HISTORY, BUT ARE AT THE STAGE IN THEIR LIFE JOURNEY TO “GIVE BACK” TO OTHERS – WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORTS.

- TRAINING IS COMPLETE, BOTH MENTORSHIP AND FACILITATION TRAINING, AND MATCHING BETWEEN MENTORS AND THOSE NEEDING MENTORS HAS STARTED.

- THE COMMISSION HAS CONTRACTED FOR 2 RESEARCH PAPERS DEALING WITH THE TOPICS OF APOLOGIES, AN ISSUE WE OFTEN HEAR ABOUT, AND A LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH ON SERVICES IN EASTERN ONTARIO FOR MEN ABUSED AS CHILDREN WHO GO ON TO BECOME ABUSERS; WE ALSO COMPLETED IN EARLY 2007 A SATISFACTION SURVEY ON COUNSELLING SUPPORT BY AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER.

- WE ALSO CONTRACTED FOR SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING A POSSIBLE PUBLIC FORUM TO EDUCATE PARENTS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEIR CHILD OR SOME CHILD THEY KNEW WAS ABUSED AND THE PROCESSES THE FOLLOWING, INCLUDING INVESTIGATION AND COURT PROCESSES.

- MOST RECENTLY THE COMMISSION APPROVED RESEARCH BY THE PREV ACTION GROUP ON A FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR CORNWALL, INCLUDING FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON VARIOUS

INITIATIVES THAT HAVE BEEN FLAGGED IN PHASE 2 MEETINGS AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY, SUCH AS A YOUTH CENTRE, SAFE HOUSE FOR MEN AND A FIRST RESPONSE SERVICE.

ACTION RESEARCH – WHAT TO EXPECT?

QUITE A BIT IS SCHEDULED OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. IN TERMS OF COURSES FOR PROFESSIONALS:

- “REVISIONING MALE VIOLENCE” IS DECEMBER 5 AND 6, 2007;
- “GROUP THERAPY AND PRACTICE” IS JANUARY 16-17, 2008;
- “SELF-CARE FOR TRAUMA WORKERS” IS FEBRUARY 21-22, 2008;
- “TRAUMA AND RESILIENCY” IS MARCH 31 – APRIL 3, 2008 – CURRENTLY AT CAPACITY BUT MAINTAINING A WAITING LIST;
- TRACKING AND MANAGING DISCLOSURE OF HISTORICAL ABUSE WILL BE MAY 22-23, 2008.

IN TERMS OF RESEARCH PAPERS, WE EXPECT TO SHORTLY GET THE PAPERS ON APOLOGIES AND THE OMBUDSMAN. THESE WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CORNWALLINQUIRY.CA. WE HAVE TWO SCHEDULED DATES FOR WORKSHOPS IN CORNWALL: JANUARY 17, 2008 FOR APOLOGIES AND FEBRUARY 20, 2008 – FOR THE OMBUDSMAN DISCUSSION

DETAILS OF VENUE AND TIMES WILL BE POSTED. THEY ARE OPEN TO ALL, ALTHOUGH PEOPLE WILL BE ASKED TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE SO WE KNOW WHAT VENUE TO CHOOSE.

WE ALSO EXPECT TO SHORTLY RECEIVE THE RESEARCH PAPER ON MEN WHO ARE ABUSED AND WHO GO ON TO ABUSE OTHERS. THIS IS BEING DONE BY THE CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP, ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH. THIS MATERIAL WILL BE POSTED AS WELL, AND WE HOPE TO ARRANGE A WORKSHOP IN THE SPRING.

THE SELF-HELP GUIDE AND MANUAL FOR SERVICES FOR MEN ARE BOTH EXPECTED LATER IN 2008.

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN BY PREV ACTION IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 2008.

ACTION RESEARCH – WHAT DOES IT COST?

IN TERMS OF ACTION RESEARCH, THERE HAVE BEEN EXPENDITURES AND ALSO CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS. HERE IS WHAT IS SPENT AND COMMITTED:

- APPROXIMATELY \$200,000 FOR PARTY RESEARCH;
- PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS AND MENTOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS ARE ABOUT \$115,000;
- RESEARCH ON APOLOGIES, THOSE ABUSED IN CHILDHOOD WHO GO ON TO OFFEND AS ADULTS, THE PREVACTION 5 YEAR PLAN AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR CORNWALL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND THE INDEPENDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY ON COUNSELLING SUPPORT – APPROXIMATELY \$220,000.

INFORMAL TESTIMONY – WHAT’S HAPPENED SO FAR?

PART OF THE ORDER-IN-COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY PROVIDES THAT THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROVIDE *“OPPORTUNITIES APART FROM FORMAL EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY THE ALLEGATIONS OF HISTORICAL ABUSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CORNWALL AREA TO*

EXPRESS THEIR EXPERIENCES OF EVENTS AND THE IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES.”

THE COMMISSIONER HAS INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN HOW BEST TO MEET THIS PART OF THE MANDATE. WE HAVE DRAFTED A CONSULTATION PAPER THAT GIVES SOME IDEAS ON HOW THINGS COULD WORK AND ASKS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. THE IDEA IS TO CONSULT PUBLICLY ON WHAT COULD WORK AND DETERMINE THE PREFERENCES AND INTEREST AMONG PEOPLE WHO MAY WANT INFORMAL TESTIMONY.

WE HAVE POSTED THE CONSULTATION PAPER ONLINE UNDER “HEALING WORK”. THE ADVISORY PANEL HAS TWO DAYS OF CONSULTATION ON NOVEMBER 29 AND 30, 2007. PEOPLE CAN HAVE A PRIVATE APPOINTMENT OR CAN COME TO THE PUBLIC “DROP IN” WHICH IS AT THE RAMADA INN IN CORNWALL FROM 7:00 – 8:00 IN THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 29TH, AND THE NEXT DAY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, FROM 8:30 TO 10:00 A.M.

INFORMAL TESTIMONY – WHAT TO EXPECT?

PEOPLE CAN EMAIL OR WRITE IN THEIR VIEWS AS WELL AS ATTENDING IN PERSON. AND, OF COURSE, ALL COUNSEL OF ALL

PARTIES HAVE THE CONSULTATION PAPER AND CAN GIVE THEIR VIEWS.

THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE IS **FEBRUARY 4, 2008**.

THE COMMISSIONER EXPECTS TO MAKE HIS DECISION IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH 2008. THIS GIVES US AMPLE TIME TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH ANY DECISION.

SUBMISSIONS – WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

THE COMMISSIONER HAS INDICATED THAT SUBMISSIONS ON PHASE 2 WILL BE SEPARATE FROM AND FOLLOW PHASE 1 SUBMISSIONS, IN THE FALL OF 2008. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER ON HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO IN RESPECT TO HEALING AND RECONCILIATION.

SUBMISSIONS – WHAT TO EXPECT?

PARTIES WILL BE INVITED TO MAKE WRITTEN AND ORAL SUBMISSIONS. WE WILL ALSO INVITE THE PUBLIC VIA OUR WEBSITE TO GIVE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. I WILL WRITE OUR PHASE 2 MAILING LIST. WE MAY HAVE SOME ADVISORY PANEL HOSTED MEETINGS FOR THE PUBLIC TO GIVE PRESENTATIONS ON

THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHASE 2. AND WE WILL SUMMARIZE THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC AND POST ONLINE.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PHASE 1 MATTERS ARE RESTRICTED TO PARTIES. THE PROCESS FOR PHASE 2 IS DIFFERENT IN THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND GENERAL PUBLIC CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

NON-EVIDENTIARY TESTIMONY AND SUBMISSIONS – WHAT IS THE COST?

SO FAR THE COST EXPENDED BY THE INQUIRY IN THIS AREA IS MINIMAL GIVEN THE STAGE OF THE ACTIVITIES.

SUMMING UP

I HOPE THIS HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND PROGRESS IN PHASE 2 AND ALSO WHAT IS COMING UP.

WE CONTINUE TO EVOLVE IN PHASE 2 – TRYING IDEAS, BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE, BUT ALSO TAKING SOME CHANCES. WE WANT TO HAVE SOME “BIG DREAMS” BUT ALSO HAVE REALISTIC, ACHIEVABLE GOALS. WE ALSO HOPE TO SPARK IDEAS THAT APPLY BEYOND CORNWALL – WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT CORNWALL CAN BE A MODEL FOR OTHERS. CORNWALL CAN FIND

“MADE IN CORNWALL” SOLUTIONS – BUT I SUSPECT SOME SOLUTIONS CAN BE MODIFIED TO BE “MADE FOR ANY COMMUNITY WITH CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE OR HISTORICAL CHILDHOOD ABUSE” – IN OTHER WORDS – FOR ANY COMMUNITY.