

CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY – PHASE 2

MEDIA BRIEFING NOTES -- COLLEEN PARRISH

JUNE 14, 2007

IN DECEMBER, I HELD A BRIEFING ON PHASE 2. SEVERAL OF YOU ASKED IF WE COULD DO IT AGAIN – SO HERE WE ARE. WHAT WE HOPE TO DO TODAY IS TO FILL YOU IN ON WHAT HAS GONE ON IN PHASE 2 – WHICH IS A LOT – AND TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT YOU MIGHT EXPECT TO SEE OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS OR SO IN TERMS OF PHASE 2. I HOPE THIS IS USEFUL. IN SOME CASES, I COVERED SOME OF THE SAME GROUND AS IN DECEMBER, BUT I THINK SOMETIMES THAT’S DESIRABLE SO YOU KNOW THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN PLANS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY HAS A UNIQUE MANDATE THAT NO PUBLIC INQUIRY IN ONTARIO HAS HAD – TO SUPPORT HEALING AND RECONCILIATION. THAT IS WHAT PHASE 2 IS ALL ABOUT.

TO REITERATE, IN PHASE 2 OF THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY, WE WILL WORK WITH THE PARTIES AT THE INQUIRY, THOSE AFFECTED BY CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE, INTERESTED PROFESSIONALS AND THE CORNWALL COMMUNITY TO:

- o CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A HEALING ENVIRONMENT IN CORNWALL;
- o ENGAGE IN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE PROCESSES OF CONSULTATION ON A RANGE OF POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO RENEWAL;
- o DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PERSONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES;
- o GET AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES, SOLUTIONS, AND EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES IN ORDER TO END UP WITH WELL-FOUNDED AND SUPPORTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE – ONES THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.

WE HAVE A PRETTY ACTIVIST AGENDA – WE WANT TO “DO”, NOT JUST RECOMMEND. SO WHAT HAVE WE DONE ALREADY IN PHASE 2? AND WHAT TO EXPECT?

COUNSELLING SUPPORT – WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- o WE HAVE ESTABLISHED INNOVATIVE COUNSELLING SUPPORT – A FIRST FOR INQUIRIES. TO DATE, WE HAVE ABOUT 210 COUNSELLING FILES OPEN AND ABOUT 25 PROVIDERS OF COUNSELLING.

- o WHEN WE LAST MET I SAID WE WOULD BE REVIEWING COUNSELLING SUPPORT TO DECIDE IF IT SHOULD EXTEND BEYOND ITS MARCH 31, 2007 DEADLINE AND IF CHANGES WERE NEEDED. AS PROMISED, WE DID THIS AND HAD INDEPENDENT SURVEYS DONE TO ASSESS SATISFACTION AND THE NEED FOR ANY CHANGES. THE LEVEL OF SATISFACTION AMONG CLIENTS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS WAS HIGH, AND

THE DECISION WAS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER TO EXTEND COUNSELLING SUPPORT TO THE DATE OF THE RELEASE OF THE INQUIRY'S REPORT PLUS 90 DAYS. THERE WERE SOME SMALL CHANGES IN HOW WE RUN COUNSELLING SUPPORT, BUT LARGELY IT CONTINUED AS IT WAS. THERE WAS ALSO A DECISION TO STOP TAKING NEW PARTICIPANTS ON MARCH 31, 2008, BUT TO REVIEW THIS BEFORE THAT DATE.

- o WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE PRECEDENT OF COUNSELLING SUPPORT, ESTABLISHED HERE, HAS WIDENED. THE GOUDGE INQUIRY INTO PEDIATRIC FORENSIC PATHOLOGY IN ONTARIO, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS PROVISIONS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF COUNSELLING EXPLICITLY WITHIN ITS MANDATE.

- o **WHAT TO EXPECT:** WE EXPECT TO DO THE REVIEW ABOUT ENDING THE INTAKE OF NEW PARTICIPANTS IN JANUARY

2008, AND WE EXPECT THE COMMISSIONER TO MAKE HIS DECISION PUBLIC BY EARLY MARCH 2008.

- o WE ALSO HAVE TO THINK NOW ABOUT THE FUTURE OF COUNSELLING SUPPORT AND PLAN FOR ANY TRANSITION WHEN THE INQUIRY ENDS. LATER THIS FALL, I HOPE TO DRAW PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY TO TALK TO US ABOUT THE RIGHT APPROACH. WE HAVE TIME, BUT WE WANT TO DO THIS WELL AND SO WE HAVE TO GET STARTED. AND WE NEED TO HEAR FROM THOSE WHO ARE CLIENTS OF COUNSELLING, THOSE WHO PROVIDE IT, AND RELATED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS.

WITNESS SUPPORT – WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- o WE DON'T TALK VERY MUCH ABOUT WITNESS SUPPORT SEPARATELY FROM COUNSELLING SUPPORT – BUT IT IS ALSO INNOVATIVE AND HAS PROVEN ITS WORTH AS BOTH WITNESSES AND LAWYERS HAVE COMMENTED FAVOURABLY.

- o **WHAT TO EXPECT:** THE COMMISSIONER, IN HIS UPCOMING STATEMENT ON JUNE 28TH WILL TALK ABOUT WITNESS SUPPORT AND ITS FUTURE ROLE AS WE MOVE TO OTHER STAGES IN THE INQUIRY'S WORK.

ADVISORY PANEL – WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- o THE COMMISSIONER HAS APPOINTED AN EXCEPTIONAL ADVISORY PANEL WITH A GENUINE DESIRE AND CAPACITY TO GIVE GOOD ADVICE – BUT THEY WANT TO DO MORE THAN GIVE ADVICE. THEY WANT TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO START THE PROCESS OF RENEWAL. THEY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ABOUT 35 SMALL COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO HEAR WHAT PEOPLE THINK – AND MOST RECENTLY HOSTED A MAY 2 MEETING CALLED “BUILDING HOPE, TRUST AND PRIDE”. IT WAS A POSITIVE START, AND WELL RECEIVED BY THE BROAD RANGE OF PEOPLE WHO CAME. I THINK WE “WALKED THE TALK” WHEN IT CAME TO BEING RESPECTFUL

AND INCLUSIVE, AND IN HAVING FAITH IN THE PEOPLE OF CORNWALL.

- o **WHAT TO EXPECT:** WE PLAN TO MEET AGAIN ON OCTOBER 18, 2007, AND MAY HAVE ANOTHER MEETING IN THE SPRING OF 2008. OVER THE SUMMER THERE WILL BE SOME SMALLER WORKING GROUP MEETINGS, DEPENDING ON THE ENERGY AND INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY. THE IDEA IS TO DEVELOP PRIORITIES AND TO WORK ON RENEWAL AND ON REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS. AGAIN, IT IS GROUND BREAKING WORK. IT HAS RISKS – BUT WE THINK THOSE RISKS ARE WORTHWHILE. WE ARE PREPARED TO BE PATIENT. AND WE KNOW IF WE PUSH A BIT, THERE CAN BE “PUSH BACK”. THAT IS ALL RIGHT, BECAUSE GETTING THERE WILL BE WORTH IT.

PHASE 2 RESEARCH – WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- o IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH, THE COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCED ACTION-ORIENTED RESEARCH, APPROVED FOR

FUNDING. THESE WERE ALL REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY PANEL. I WANT TO SUMMARIZE WHAT HAS BEEN APPROVED:

- o FIVE PROJECTS BY PARTIES:
 - o A SELF HELP AND EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE BY THE GROUP SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT (SOSA);
 - o A RESEARCH PAPER ON THE UTILITY OF AN OMBUDSMAN OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRES IN THE AREA OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE AND HISTORICAL ABUSE, BY THE MEN'S PROJECT;
 - o A PROJECT TO DEVELOP A GUIDEBOOK AND MANUAL FOR SELF-HELP INITIATIVES, BY THE MEN'S PROJECT;
 - o A MANUAL DEVELOPED BY THE MEN'S PROJECT FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING AT SETTING UP SERVICES FOR

MALE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR ENHANCING
EXISTING SERVICES; AND

- A RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A
CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND
RESEARCH INFORMATION ABOUT HISTORICAL ABUSE,
PUT FORWARD BY THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF
STORMONT, DUNDAS & GLENGARRY.

- TEN PROJECTS BY THOSE MAKING SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS IN
RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY'S REQUEST, POSTED ON THE
WEBSITE, FOR PEOPLE TO CARRY OUT ACTION-ORIENTED
RESEARCH PROJECTS. THESE WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE
ADVISORY PANEL AND ENDORSED BY THE COMMISSIONER AS
WORK OF VALUE TO CORNWALL OR WORK WHICH WILL LEAD
TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

- A RESEARCH PAPER ON THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF APOLOGIES;
- RESEARCH ON SERVICES IN EASTERN ONTARIO FOR MEN WHO WERE ABUSED AS CHILDREN AND IN TURN BECAME ABUSERS;
- SIX TRAINING COURSES FOR PROFESSIONALS RANGING FROM COURSES ON THE NEEDS OF MALE VICTIMS, THROUGH TO DEALING WITH PROVIDER “BURNOUT” AND VICARIOUS TRAUMA, TO MANAGING DISCLOSURE;
- A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR THOSE WHO COULD ACT AS A FRIEND AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO A PERSON WHO HAS EXPERIENCED CHILDHOOD ABUSE. THE PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES A PARTICIPANT PROGRAM OF SEVERAL MONTHS DURATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE ADULT SURVIVORS OF ABUSE.

- A PUBLIC FORUM TO EDUCATE PARENTS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEIR CHILD OR SOME CHILD THEY KNEW WAS ABUSED AND THE INVESTIGATION AND COURT PROCESSES THAT FOLLOW.

- **WHAT TO EXPECT:** MOST OF THESE PHASE 2 PROJECTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY AND THERE WILL BE A VARIETY OF OUTCOMES. HERE ARE SOME UPCOMING EXAMPLES:
 - WE EXPECT THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FACILITATED BY THE GATEHOUSE TO START SIGNING UP PEOPLE OVER THE SUMMER AND START TRAINING THIS FALL;

 - WE UNDERSTAND SOSA IS WORKING HARD ON ITS WEBSITE;

 - WE EXPECT THE RESEARCH PAPERS ON APOLOGIES, THE OMBUDSMAN AND RESEARCH ON ABUSERS WHO WERE ABUSED TO BE PROVIDED IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER; WE PLAN WORKSHOPS TO PRESENT THEM IN THE

WINTER. THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE POSTED ON THE INQUIRY WEBSITE AND ARE A GOOD PLACE TO TALK ABOUT THESE IMPORTANT IDEAS, ALL GERMANE TO REAL LIFE. ALL PAPERS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE THIS FALL.

- THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES WILL LIKELY START IN LATE 2007 AND RUN INTO MID 2008.
- AT THIS TIME, WE UNDERSTAND THAT WORK ON THE CAS PROJECT IS IN ABEYANCE AS THEY TACKLE OTHER PRIORITIES.

INFORMAL TESTIMONY – WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- THE MANDATE OF THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY SAYS –
AND I WILL QUOTE HERE:

*“THE COMMISSION MAY PROVIDE COMMUNITY MEETINGS
OR OTHER 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.”

- o THE COMMISSIONER IS INTERESTED IN DETERMINING HOW TO BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO MAY WANT TO GIVE THEIR ACCOUNTS OF EXPERIENCES AND IMPACTS IN A PROCESS THAT IS NOT EVIDENCE IN A PUBLIC HEARING. WE HAVE STARTED A CONSULTATION WITH THE LAWYERS FOR THE PARTIES ON HOW TO DO THIS, AND PLAN ANOTHER MEETING IN EARLY JULY 2007. AGAIN, THIS IS A UNIQUE ASPECT OF A PUBLIC INQUIRY MANDATE.

- o **WHAT TO EXPECT:** THE ADVISORY PANEL WILL HAVE A MEETING WITH SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND WITH THOSE WHO PROVIDE COUNSELLING SERVICES, AND WITH OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY WHO MAY WANT TO EXPRESS

THEIR EXPERIENCES. THIS WILL HAPPEN IN THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 2007. WE ALSO PLAN TO POST A CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE INQUIRY WEBSITE. FROM THIS FEEDBACK, THE COMMISSIONER WILL DECIDE WHEN AND HOW TO MEET THIS IMPORTANT PART OF THE PHASE 2 MANDATE. WE EXPECT THE COMMISSIONER TO MAKE THAT DECISION IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER 2007.

SUBMISSIONS— WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- o WE HAVE HAD AND WILL HAVE ACTIVITIES GOING ON DURING PHASE 2 AS YOU HAVE SEEN. BUT PART OF PHASE 2 IS CLEARLY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT HEALING AND RECONCILIATION FOR THE FUTURE, AND TO SUGGEST TO THE COMMISSIONER WHAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND.

- o **WHAT TO EXPECT:** THERE WILL BE A PROCESS FOR ALL THE PARTIES AT THE INQUIRY TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS ON PHASE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS. WE WILL ALSO CONTACT EVERYONE

WE HAVE MET OR WILL MEET IN OUR PHASE 2 CONSULTATIONS AND ASK THEM FOR THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. AND WE WILL INVITE THE PUBLIC VIA OUR WEBSITE TO GIVE US THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. WE MAY EVEN HAVE SOME MEETINGS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT PEOPLE WANT TO DISCUSS. THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PHASE 1 SUBMISSION PROCESSES WHICH IS CONFINED TO PARTIES. WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN? WE THINK ABOUT A MONTH OR SO AFTER PHASE 1 SUBMISSIONS ARE RECEIVED BY THE CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY.

SO I HOPE THIS WAS OF SOME HELP IN UNDERSTANDING PHASE 2 AND IN OUTLINING WHAT IS PLANNED OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. I WANT TO STRESS THAT BECAUSE WE ARE LISTENING TO PEOPLE AND WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY, THERE IS GIVE AND TAKE. THAT WILL MEAN ADJUSTING TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY.

OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS COMMUNITY IS TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET IT RIGHT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY OUT IDEAS AND APPROACHES. TAKE SOME CHANCES. REVISIT OLD IDEAS AND COME UP WITH SOME NEW ONES. THE BOTTOM LINE – AND THE KEY TO SUCCESS – WILL BE TO BUILD REALISTIC, ACHIEVABLE ACTIONS THAT HAVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT. WE HOPE THAT MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES WILL HAVE WIDER APPLICATION BEYOND CORNWALL.

IT IS ALSO PART OF OUR MANDATE IN PHASE 2 TO ELUCIDATE KEY ISSUES ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – THROUGH RESEARCH, TRAINING COURSES, AND WORKSHOPS.

AND IT IS ALSO PART OF OUR WORK TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO THOSE WHO ARE AFFECTED – IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS – BY CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE.

WE RECOGNIZE THIS IS A UNIQUE AND COMPLEX PUBLIC INQUIRY
MANDATE. WE ARE DETERMINED TO NOT WASTE THIS IMPORTANT
OPPORTUNITY.