

DATE: 2007-10-17

**INQUIRY INTO PEDIATRIC FORENSIC PATHOLOGY IN
ONTARIO**

**RULING ON APPLICATION FOR STANDING BY THE COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO**

COMMISSIONER GOUDGE:

By letter of October 12, 2007, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (“CPSO”) requests standing to participate in this Inquiry.

CPSO is the self-regulating body for the medical profession in Ontario. Among other things, it issues certificates of registration to doctors, monitors and maintains standards of practice, and investigates complaints against doctors. Pathologists involved with pediatric forensic pathology are medical doctors and are therefore subject to this regulation. Thus CPSO is one of the important oversight mechanisms that the Commission is mandated to examine.

In addition, in several of the cases included in the Chief Coroner’s Review that led to the establishment of the Commission, complaints were made to CPSO about the pathology done by Dr. Smith. How effectively these complaints were dealt with will very likely be a part of the Commission’s work.

Finally recommendations to restore public confidence in pediatric forensic pathology in Ontario may encompass the future oversight role of CPSO.

In summary, because its oversight role comes within the scope of the review that the Commission must undertake, and because it may be affected by the Commission's recommendations, it is appropriate that CPSO be granted standing.

RELEASED: October 17, 2007



Stephen Goudge
Commissioner