

Attention News Editors:

Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology in Ontario to hold policy roundtable in Thunder Bay, Ont., February 28 and 29, 2008

TORONTO, Feb. 20 /CNW/ - The Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology in Ontario will hold its final two policy roundtables in Thunder Bay, Ont., on February 28 and 29, 2008.

The roundtables will take place at the Valhalla Inn, 1 Valhalla Rd., in Thunder Bay, starting at 10:30 a.m. on February 28th and at 10 a.m. on February 29th. The roundtables are open to the public and will be webcast live. The webcast may be accessed through the Inquiry's web page www.goudgeinquiry.ca

The roundtables in Thunder Bay are aimed at addressing a number of systemic issues identified by the Inquiry. These include how pediatric forensic pathology should be delivered to communities in northern Ontario. The

roundtable on February 29th will be devoted exclusively to the challenges of delivering pediatric forensic pathology services in Aboriginal communities.

The roundtables will conclude the Inquiry's public hearings that began on November 12, 2007. Written closing submissions from parties to the Inquiry are due on March 21. Oral submissions will be heard on March 31 and April 1.

The Inquiry's mandate is to conduct a systemic review and an assessment of the policies, procedures, practices, accountability and oversight mechanisms, quality control measures and institutional arrangements of pediatric forensic pathology in Ontario from 1981 to 2001 as they relate to its practice and use in investigations and criminal proceedings. The Commissioner is to make recommendations to address systemic failings and restore and enhance public confidence in pediatric forensic pathology in Ontario. The Honourable Stephen T. Goudge is the Commissioner.

More information about the Inquiry and a full schedule of the roundtables is available on the Commission's web page www.goudgeinquiry.ca

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS IN THUNDER BAY: The Inquiry will provide audio and video outlets for media in the back of the hearing room. The proceedings may be recorded and broadcast. Photo opportunities may be arranged before the start of the day's session. However, during the sessions, only Inquiry cameras will be permitted to record in the hearing room. The output of the Inquiry cameras may be recorded and/or broadcast as required.

Media should be aware that on November 1, 2007, the Commissioner issued a non-publication order that applies to certain names. His ruling is on the web page under the Legal Information button titled: Ruling on the Requests for Non-Publication Orders and on the home page under the title: Ruling on the Requests for Non-Publication Orders.

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