

Attention News/Assignment Editors:

OPP presents forum on Aboriginal policing to Ipperwash Inquiry

TORONTO, Jan. 23 /CNW/ - The Ontario Provincial Police will present a two-day forum titled "Aboriginal Initiatives - Building Respectful Relationships" to the Ipperwash Inquiry on January 26 and 27.

The Inquiry is examining on the events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by First Nations at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died. The inquiry is also to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances.

The OPP forum is one of many events dealing with topics relevant to the second part of its mandate. Details are available on the Inquiry's website: http://www.ipperwashinquiry.ca/policy_part/meetings/index.html.

The OPP event will be held at Kimball Hall in Forest, the site of the evidentiary hearings that have been under way for more than a year. The session on January 26 will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on January 27 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The OPP session will focus on relations between aboriginals and police and will include presentations by OPP Commissioner Gwen Boniface, recently retired Chief of Police Wes Luloff of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services, and others. The session will include panel discussions and video presentations.

Another organization with a province-wide mandate, the Chiefs of Ontario, will present a forum in the spring.

The OPP session will include a discussion of the OPP's draft paper, "Framework for Police Preparedness to Aboriginal Critical Incidents."

The event is open to all parties with standing at the Inquiry, to interested organizations, members of the community in and around Forest, and the general public.

The event is open to the media. The electronic pool feed will be available.

Information about the Inquiry is available at: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca

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