

Attention News Editors:

Statement by the Ipperwash Inquiry regarding media conference by lawyers for Dudley George Estate

TORONTO, Sept. 3 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry today released the following statement regarding a media conference held by the lawyers for the Estate of Dudley George and George Family Group:

In the course of its investigation, the Inquiry has acquired a great deal of evidence regarding the circumstances that led to the shooting of Dudley George in 1995. The investigation has been under way since the commission was created and is continuing. The parties to the Inquiry, including the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police, the individuals and the First Nations groups have cooperated in providing material that will form the basis of the evidentiary hearings that have now started.

As is the practice in public inquiries, the evidence is being disclosed in a timely manner to all the parties with standing on a confidential basis. The parties have all signed a confidentiality agreement. All of the evidence, including the material referred to this morning, will be made public during the course of the Inquiry. The proper forum for disclosing evidence is before the Commissioner in the Inquiry hearing room where it can be presented and tested by cross-examination. This will insure that the Inquiry proceeds in an orderly fashion and in a manner that is fair to all parties.

The evidence that the inquiry has acquired is voluminous. It includes more than 5,000 hours of video and audio tapes, thousands of documents, photographs and related material. Commission counsel and Inquiry staff have been working continuously to identify documents that are relevant for presentation at the Inquiry. The majority of these documents have already been disclosed to the parties.

The evidentiary hearings started in Forest, Ont. in July and continue next Wednesday.

More information about the Inquiry is available on its web page at: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca

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