

Statement by Commissioner Goudge on May 3, 2007

In announcing the appointment of counsel and the research director, Commissioner Goudge made the following statement:

“This Commission has been given a very important job: to restore public confidence in the use and reliability of pediatric forensic pathology evidence in Ontario's criminal proceedings. We must produce a report and recommendations that will minimize the possibility that the administration of justice could be affected by flawed pathology findings or evidence.

“This Commission must examine important systemic issues including the interaction among coroners, pediatric forensic pathologists, police officers, crown attorneys, and defence counsel. The Commission will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the accountability and oversight mechanisms that were and are in place to ensure that justice is done and that it is seen to be done.

“The Commission of Inquiry is dedicated to making sure that no one ever has to endure the horror of being charged criminally, or having a family unit pulled apart, or being convicted because of flawed pathology findings or evidence. It can neither correct errors where new evidence may indicate that a conviction is unsafe nor provide financial compensation.

“I look forward to working with Senator Campbell, and my counsel and research team to conduct an efficient and thorough investigation, and to deliver a useful report in one year. We are developing our work plan and will provide an update to the public shortly.”