

Attention News Editors:

Commissioner of Pediatric Forensic Pathology Inquiry to make public statement on June 18, 2007

TORONTO, May 24 /CNW/ - The Honourable Stephen Goudge, Commissioner of the Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology in Ontario, announced today that he will make an initial public statement to outline his plan for fulfilling his mandate.

The Commissioner will make the statement at 10 a.m. on June 18, 2007, at the Metropolitan Hotel at 108 Chestnut Street in Toronto. His statement will be open to the public and to the media.

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. This review will enable the Commissioner to make recommendations to address systemic failings and restore and enhance public confidence in pediatric forensic pathology in Ontario.

The Commission's mandate does not include reporting on any individual cases that have been or may be subject to a criminal investigation or proceeding. However, between June 18 and 21, 2007, the Commission will meet privately with individuals or families affected by practices in Ontario's pediatric forensic pathology system between 1981 and 2001.

"In order for me to understand the impact that systemic failings have on people's lives, it will be very helpful for me to speak with those directly affected. In order not to prejudice any ongoing legal proceedings and in view of the intimate and personal nature of the matters that may be disclosed in these meetings, these meetings must take place in private. They will not be part of the formal hearing process. The Commission is not empowered to correct errors in specific cases nor provide financial compensation but the information from the meetings will be extremely useful background to me in my work."

"The Commission 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."

The Commission invites those who wish to meet with the Commission to contact the Commission in confidence as soon as possible at www.goudgeinquiry.ca or (416) 212-6871. Funding may be available from the Commission, if necessary.

The Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology in Ontario was established by the Government of Ontario under the Public Inquiries Act on April 25, 2007.

The Commission is to deliver its final Report and recommendations to the Attorney General no later than April 25, 2008.

The Commission started its work immediately after it was established. A team of lawyers is gathering and reviewing relevant documentation, consulting with the key institutions and interviewing experts and witnesses.

The Commission is in the process of establishing an office at 180 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON.

More information about the inquiry is available on the Commission's web page: www.goudgeinquiry.ca

The Order in Council establishing the Inquiry:
[http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/news/2007/20070425-pi-tr
.asp](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/news/2007/20070425-pi-tr.asp)

For further information: or to arrange an interview with Commission
Counsel: Peter Rehak, (416) 992-0679