

Attention News/Assignment Editors:**Ipperwash Inquiry legal counsel announced**

TORONTO, Nov. 24 /CNW/ - W.A. Derry Millar, a senior litigation counsel, has been appointed lead Counsel for the Ipperwash Inquiry, The Honourable Sidney B. Linden, Commissioner of the Inquiry, announced today.

Mr. Millar is a partner in the Toronto law firm WeirFoulds LLP and is a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada, the legal profession's governing body. He has served as chair and vice-chair of many Law Society committees including the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee.

Mr. Millar was called to the Ontario Bar in 1974. His wide-ranging experience includes acting as chair of boards of inquiry established in the 1980s to hear complaints against police officers of the Metropolitan Toronto Police.

Mr. Millar graduated from the Dalhousie Law School in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1966 and subsequently served as Law Clerk to the Honourable Mr. Justice Ritchie of the Supreme Court of Canada. In 2001, he was elected a Fellow of the American College of trial Lawyers.

His practice at WeirFoulds is exclusively civil litigation and administrative law including aviation, commercial, estates, environmental, insurance, products liability and real estate.

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario on November 12, 2003 under the Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate is to inquire and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George who was shot and later died during a protest by First Nations at the Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995. The Inquiry is also directed to make recommendations directed to the avoidance of violence in similar circumstances.

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11/24/2003

For further information: Derry Millar: (416) 947-5021; Media Contact: Peter Rehak: (416) 212-6876.

**Attention News/Assignment Editors:
Ipperwash Inquiry Announces Hearings**

TORONTO, March 9 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry will hold hearings on standing and funding starting on April 20, 2004, in Forest, Ontario, Justice Sidney B. Linden, the Commissioner of the Inquiry, announced today.

The hearings will be held at the Forest Memorial Community Centre (Kimball Hall) at 6276 Townsend Line, in Forest. Forest is part of the Municipality of Lambton Shores. The hearings will continue as required on April 21, 22 and 23.

On April 20, the hearings will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., on subsequent days from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Standing before a Commission of Inquiry gives the individual or organization the right to take part in the proceedings and to make submissions on terms set by the Commissioner. The Inquiry is inviting applications from any person or group who has a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of the Inquiry or whose participation may be helpful to fulfill the Commissioner's mandate.

Applications for standing and funding should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2004, by delivering a copy to the Commission's offices. The address is: 250 Yonge Street, 29th Floor, P.O. Box 30, Toronto, Ont. M5G 2N7; Telephone 416-314-9200; Fax (416) 314-9393; e-mail: feedback@ipperwashinquiry.ca.

The Commission's draft Rules of Procedure and on Funding as well as more information on the hearings may be found on the Inquiry's web page at: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca. The public is invited to comment on the draft rules by March 15, 2004.

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario on November 12, 2003, under the Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate is to report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by Aboriginal people at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died. The Commission is also directed to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances.

The Commissioner intends to separate the inquiry into two phases that will run concurrently. Part 1 will deal with the events surrounding the death of Dudley George. Part 2 will deal with the policy issues and recommendations directed to the avoidance of violence in similar circumstances.

The hearings proper will start on July 12, 2004 at the Forest Memorial Community centre, the same venue where the hearings on standing will be held.

A tentative schedule is available on the Inquiry's web page www.ipperwashinquiry.ca.

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03/09/2004

For further information: and interviews: Derry Millar, Lead Counsel:
(416) 314-9258; media contact and information: Peter Rehak, (416) 212-6876

Attention News/Assignment Editors:**Ipperwash Inquiry Receives 35 Applications for Standing**

TORONTO, April 15 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry has received 35 applications standing and funding. The applications will be heard from on April 20 to 23 in Forest, Ontario before Justice Sidney B. Linden, the Commissioner of the Inquiry.

The applicants include the estate and family of Anthony "Dudley" George, who was shot during a protest by Aboriginal people at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995 and later died; the Ontario Provincial Police; the Ontario Provincial Police Association; the Ministry of the Attorney General and former Ontario Premier Michael Harris.

A complete list and schedule is available on the Inquiry's web page: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca

The hearings will be held at the Forest Memorial Community Centre (Kimball Hall) at 6276 Townsend Line, in Forest. Forest is part of the Municipality of Lambton Shores. On

Standing before a Commission of Inquiry gives the individual or organization the right to take part in the proceedings and to make submissions on terms set by the Commissioner. The applicant must show a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of the Inquiry or whose participation may be helpful to fulfill the Commissioner's mandate.

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario on November 12, 2003, under the Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate is to report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George. The Commission is also directed to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances.

A tentative schedule for evidentiary hearings is available on the Inquiry's web page www.ipperwashinquiry.ca.

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04/15/2004

For further information: and interviews: Derry Millar, Lead Counsel: (416) 314-9258; media contact and information: Peter Rehak (416) 212-6876.

Attention News/Assignment Editors

Ipperwash Inquiry Ruling on Standing and Funding Issued

TORONTO, May 7 /CNW/ - Justice Sidney B. Linden, the Commissioner of the Ipperwash Inquiry, today issued his ruling on standing and funding. The ruling is posted on the Inquiry's web page: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca. Hearings of applications for standing were held in Forest, Ont., on April 20, 21, 22 and 23, 2004.

Standing before a Commission of Inquiry gives the individual or organization the right to take part in the proceedings and to make submissions on terms set by the Commissioner.

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario on November 12, 2003, under the Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate is to report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by Aboriginal people at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died. The Commission is also directed to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances.

The Commissioner intends to separate the inquiry into two phases that will run concurrently. Part I will deal with the events surrounding the death of Dudley George. Part II will deal with the policy issues and recommendations directed to the avoidance of violence in similar circumstances.

In the Ruling, 17 parties have been granted standing to participate in Part I of the inquiry and 28 parties have been granted standing in Part II of the Inquiry.

The hearings will start on July 13, 2004 at the Forest Memorial Community Centre (Kimball Hall), the same venue where the hearings on standing were held.

A preliminary schedule is available on the Inquiry's web page www.ipperwashinquiry.ca.

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05/07/2004

For further information: and interviews: Derry Millar, Lead Counsel: (416) 314-9258; media contact and information: Peter Rehak (416) 212-6876.

Attention News/Assignment Editors**Ipperwash Inquiry Announces New Counsel**

TORONTO, June 3 /CNW/ - The Honourable Sidney B. Linden, the Commissioner of the Ipperwash Inquiry, today announced the appointment of Donald E. Worme, Q.C., as Commission Counsel.

Mr. Worme is a Cree lawyer from the Kawacatoose First Nation Treaty Four, Saskatchewan.

He joins Lead Counsel W.A. Derry Millar, Counsel Susan Vella and Assistant Counsel Katherine Hensel on the Inquiry's legal team.

After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in 1985, Mr. Worme articulated with the Federal Department of Justice in public prosecutions. Since receiving his call to the Bar in 1986, he has been engaged in private practice and has acquired extensive and varied experience in criminal and aboriginal law litigation. He has appeared at all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. Worme was lead counsel for the family of Neil Stonechild during the 2003-2004 Public Inquiry in Saskatchewan into the death of Neil Stonechild, an Aboriginal teenager whose body was found in an industrial area of Saskatoon in 1990. Mr. Worme also acted for inmate Sandra Paquachon in the Commission of Inquiry into Events of 1994 at the Prison for Women in Kingston.

Mr. Worme replaces Todd Ducharme on the Inquiry's legal team. Mr. Ducharme was appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice last month.

Information about the Ipperwash Inquiry is available on its website: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca

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06/03/2004

For further information: Media Contact: Peter Rehak, (416) 212-6876.

Attention News/Assignment Editors

Ipperwash Inquiry and Osgoode Hall Law School Sponsor Symposium on Relations Between Police and Government

Canada News-wire

Monday, June 7, 2004

Section: General News

Dateline: TORONTO

Time: 15:14 (Eastern Time)

TORONTO, June 7 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry and Osgoode Hall Law School will hold a one-day academic research symposium dealing with relationship between the police and government.

The symposium will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2004, at the Osgoode Professional Development Centre, 1 Dundas Street West, 26th Floor, Toronto, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Inquiry and Osgoode Hall Law School will also host a dinner on the evening of Monday, June 28, 2004. Mr. Justice Peter Cory will open the conference with a speech at the dinner titled "Reflections on Recent Experience with Public Inquiries."

The dinner will be held at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard Street West, Toronto. It will start at 7:00 p.m.

The symposium on the 28th will address the following issues:

- Core Principles of the Government/Police Relationship;
- The Legal Sites of Government-Police Relations;
- The History and the Future of the Politics of Policing;
- An International and Comparative Perspective;
- Government-Police Relations in an Aboriginal Context;
- The Oversight of Government-Police Relations in Canada: The Constitution, the Courts, Administrative Processes and Democratic Governance.

Prior to the symposium, the Inquiry and Osgoode will commission six academic research papers to be distributed and/or presented at the symposium.

The researchers selected to author and present the commissioned papers represent a diverse mix of scholars who are leading experts in relevant areas of concern to the Inquiry, including:

- Professor Kent Roach, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto.
- Professor Dianne Martin, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.
- Professor Margaret Beare, Department of Sociology and Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.
- Professor Philip Stenning, Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.
- Professor Gordon Christie, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.
- Professor Lorne Sossin, Faculties of Law and Political Science, University of Toronto.

The writers have been instructed to avoid discussing or speculating on the facts surrounding the death of Dudley George or the role of the police or government in the Ipperwash matter. These issues will be dealt with in the evidentiary hearings in Part One of the Inquiry.

The commissioned papers, any commissioned commentaries, and a summary of the discussion at the symposium will be published on the Inquiry's website:

www.ipperwashington.ca. Additional information about the Inquiry and the symposium is also available on the Inquiry website.

The media are invited to attend the symposium. However, space is limited and those wishing to cover the event or to receive materials from the event should contact Peter Rehak, the Inquiry's Media Relations Officer at 416-212-6876.

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06/07/2004

Attention News/Assignment Editors

Leading Experts and Academics Take Part in Symposium on Police and Government Sponsored by Osgoode Hall Law School and the Ipperwash Inquiry

TORONTO, June 24 /CNW/ - Leading experts and academics will be participating in a one-day symposium on relations between police and governments organized jointly by the Ipperwash Inquiry and Osgoode Hall Law School.

The symposium will be held on Tuesday, June 29th, 2004, at the Osgoode Professional Development Centre, 1 Dundas Street West, 26th Floor, Toronto, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Six academic research papers have been prepared and will be presented at the symposium. The authors are Kent Roach, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto; Dianne Martin, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; Margaret Beane, Department of Sociology and Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; Philip Stenning, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; Gordon Christie, Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia and Lorne Sossin, Faculty of Law and Department of Political Science, University of Toronto.

The pre-conference drafts of their papers have been posted on the Ipperwash Inquiry's web site: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca. The conference agenda and more detailed information about the symposium and the Inquiry is also available on the website.

Commentators on the papers include Ron Atkey, a former chairman of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service Review Committee; Susan Eng former chair of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board; R.H. Simmonds, former Commissioner of the RCMP; Tonita Murray, Director General of the Canadian Police College; Reg Whitaker, author and professor, University of Victoria; Kim Murray, Aboriginal Legal Services; Alan Borovoy of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Wesley Pue of the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Justice Peter Cory will open the conference at a dinner on the evening of June 28, 2004 with a speech titled: "Reflections on Recent Experience with Public Inquiries."

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario under Public Inquiries Act, and its mandate is to inquire and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by First Nations representatives at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died.

The Inquiry is also to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances. The Commissioner, the Honourable Sidney B. Linden, has separated the Inquiry into two phases that will run concurrently. Part 1 will deal with the events surrounding the death of Dudley George. Part 2 will deal with the policy issues and recommendations directed to the avoidance of violence in similar circumstances.

The symposium is being held under Part 2. The symposium is open to the media and public with prior registration due to limited space.

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06/24/2004

For further information: Peter Rehak (media inquiries), (416) 212-6876;
Nye Thomas (symposium inquiries), (416) 314-9200.

Attention News/Assignment Editors

Experts on Aboriginal Culture and History to Testify at Start of Ipperwash Inquiry Next Week

TORONTO, July 7 /CNW/ - Two experts on aboriginal culture and history will be the first witnesses at the Ipperwash Inquiry that starts evidentiary hearings on Tuesday, July 13, 2004, in Forest, Ontario.

The Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario to inquire into the fatal shooting of Dudley George during a protest by Aboriginal people at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995.

Under its terms of reference, the Inquiry is to report on the circumstances that led to the shooting and is also to make recommendations designed to avoid violence in similar circumstance in the future. The Honourable Sidney B. Linden is the Commissioner.

The witnesses during the first three days of hearings next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be Darlene Johnston, B.A., LL.B., LL.M., an assistant professor of law at the University of Toronto, and Joan Holmes, B.A., M.A., president of Joan Holmes Associates Inc, an Aboriginal rights and research consulting firm.

Their presentations and the three days of hearings on August 17, 18 and 19 will set the context for the evidence to be heard later in the year about the 1995 protest and the subsequent events.

Professor Johnston is a specialist in Great Lakes Aboriginal history and is a descendant of the Great Lakes Aboriginal ancestors. She is also a member of the Inquiry's Research Advisory Committee. Her presentation will include an exposition of the significance of burial grounds in Aboriginal culture. A burial ground is one of the issues in the dispute that led to the 1995 protest. She will also examine the relationship of the lands in this region to the Great Lakes Aboriginal people in the 17th and early 18th century.

Ms. Holmes will trace the history of relations and land transactions between Great Lakes Aboriginal people and governments going back to the 18th century. Her presentation will include an examination of the land transactions between 1927 and 1928 in which the Kettle Point and Stony Point First Nation surrender land, the purchase of the Ipperwash Provincial Park by the province and the eviction of the First Nation from Stony Point reserve during the 2nd World War.

As part of that review, she will trace the requests for return of its former Stony Point reserve territory and governmental responses to such request, including requests made by the Honourable Jean Chretien when he was the Minister Responsible for Indian Affairs. The Department of National Defence used the War Measures Act to appropriate the former Stony Point Reserve in 1942. As well, Ms. Holmes will review the contemporary claims concerning the possible existence of burial grounds of both Ipperwash Provincial Park and the nearby Camp Ipperwash.

Ms. Homes and her firm have done extensive historical research for the federal government a number of provincial governments and Aboriginal groups.

"One of the purposes of a public inquiry is to educate the public on the matters in issue. An understanding by Ontarians of the Aboriginal history of the region and the historical context of the incident is

fundamental to the Inquiry and our educational mandate," says Lead Commission Counsel Derry Millar.

Commissioner Linden has separated the Inquiry into two phases that will run concurrently. Part I will deal with events surrounding the death of Dudley George. Part II will deal with the policy issues and recommendations directed to the avoidance of violence in similar circumstances.

As a component of Part II, the Inquiry co-sponsored with the Osgoode Hall Law School a symposium on police and government that was held in Toronto on June 29, 2004. Information about the symposium is available on the inquiry's web page at www.ipperwashinquiry.ca. More information about the inquiry is also available on the web page.

Next week's hearing will be held at the Forest Memorial community center (Kimball hall) at 6276 Townsend Line, Forest, Ontario. Forest is part of the Municipality of Lambton Shores. The first day's hearing will start at 10:30 a.m. and at 10 a.m. on the subsequent days. The schedule of further hearing days including the time and location, is posted on the Inquiry's website.

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For further information: Peter Rehak, Communication Coordinator and Media Relations Officer, The Ipperwash Inquiry, (416) 212-6876

Attention News/Assignment Editors:

Ipperwash Inquiry Resumes Next Week With History Testimony

TORONTO, Aug. 13 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry resumes next week with the testimony of Joan Holmes, B.A., M.A., president of Joan Holmes Associates Inc, an Aboriginal rights and research consulting firm. Ms Holmes is the second of two experts to testify at the evidentiary hearings that started the Inquiry hearings last month.

Next week's hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, Wednesday, August 18, and Thursday, August 19, in Forest, Ontario.

Ms. Holmes will trace the history of relations and land transactions between Great Lakes Aboriginal people and governments from the mid-18th Century to 1995. Her presentation will include an examination of the land transactions between 1927 and 1928 in which the Kettle Point and Stony Point First Nation surrendered land, the purchase of the Ipperwash Provincial Park by the province and the expropriation of the Stony Point reserve during the Second World War.

As part of that review, she will trace the requests for return of the former Stony Point reserve territory and governmental responses to such request, including requests made by the Honourable Jean Chrétien when he was the Minister Responsible for Indian Affairs. The Department of National Defence used the War Measures Act to appropriate the former Stony Point Reserve in 1942. As well, Ms. Holmes will review the contemporary claims concerning the possible existence of burial grounds of both Ipperwash Provincial Park and the nearby Camp Ipperwash.

During three days of hearings in July, the Inquiry heard testimony from Darlene Johnston, B.A., LL.B., LL.M., a specialist in Great Lakes Aboriginal history and a descendant of the Great Lakes Aboriginal ancestors. She is also a member of the Inquiry's Research Advisory Committee. Her presentation is available on the Inquiry's web page www.ipperwashinquiry.ca

The Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario to inquire into the fatal shooting of Dudley George during a protest by Aboriginal people at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995.

The Inquiry is to report on the circumstances that led to the shooting and is also to make recommendations designed to avoid violence in similar circumstance in the future. The Honourable Sidney B. Linden is the Commissioner.

The historical presentations set the context for the evidence to be heard later in the year about the 1995 protest and the subsequent events.

Commissioner Linden has separated the Inquiry into two phases that will run concurrently. Part I will deal with events surrounding the death of Dudley George. Part II will deal with the policy issues and recommendations directed to the avoidance of violence in similar circumstances.

Next week's hearing will be held at the Forest Memorial Community Center (Kimball hall) at 6276 Townsend Line, Forest, Ontario. Forest is part of the Municipality of Lambton Shores. The hearing on Tuesday, August 17, will start at 10:30 a.m. and at 10 a.m. on the subsequent days. The schedule of further hearing days is posted on the Inquiry's website: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca.

For further information: Peter Rehak, Communication Coordinator and Media Relations Officer, The Ipperwash Inquiry, (416) 212-6876.

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

For further information: Peter Rehak, Media Contact: (416) 212-6876, cell: (416) 992-0679; For interviews, Susan Vella, Commission Counsel: (416) 314-9224

Attention News Editors:

Ipperwash Inquiry to hold consultation on Aboriginal Burial and other Sacred Sites in Toronto on December 8, 2005

TORONTO, Dec. 5 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry will hold a consultation about aboriginal burial and other sacred sites in Ontario on Thursday, December 8, 2005, in Toronto.

The event will be held at the Metropolitan Hotel, 108 Chestnut Street, Toronto, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

The Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario to inquire into and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George who was shot and killed by an Ontario Provincial Police officer in 1995 during a protest at Ipperwash Provincial Park.

The Inquiry also has a mandate to make recommendations directed at avoiding violence in similar circumstances. It is holding evidentiary hearings in Forest dealing with the circumstances of the incident. In order to fulfill the second part of its mandate, it has commissioned a number of research papers and has held a number of meetings and symposia. Details are available on the Inquiry's web page www.ipperwashinquiry.ca.

At the consultation on December 8, Professor Darlene Johnston of the University of Toronto will give a brief overview of her paper, Aboriginal Burial and Other Sacred Sites in Ontario, commissioned by the Inquiry. Professor Johnston is a member of the Inquiry's advisory panel.

The meeting will feature two panels. One will provide a broad overview of the issues, the second will consider specific examples. The panelists who have been scheduled include:

- Elder Fred Plain. Fred Plain is from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Mr. Plain is the Elder for the Chiefs of Ontario, and is a former chief of his community;
- Ron Williamson, Chief Archaeologist and Managing Partner of Archaeological Services Inc.;
- Chief Franklin Paibomsai, Chief of Whitefish River First Nation, representing the Chiefs of Ontario
- David Donnelly, counsel to the Huron-Wendat First Nation in the recent discovery of an Aboriginal ossuary in York Region;
- Paul Jones, Band Councillor, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation
- Mark Frawley, Chair of the Niagara Escarpment Commission
- Frances Sanderson, a former member of the First Nations Burial Committee of Toronto and was involved in drafting the 1998 guideline, entitled "Discovery of Human Remains - Best Practices."

The Inquiry is particularly interested in identifying best practices and policies that lead to peaceful and constructive resolutions of potential conflicts.

Media are invited to cover the event but space is limited.

For further information: Nye Thomas (Director of Policy),
(416) 314-9219; Noelle Spotton (Policy Counsel), (416) 314-9472;
Peter Rehak (Media Liaison), (416) 314-9355

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

For further information: Nye Thomas, Director, Policy and Research, Ipperwash Inquiry, (416) 314-9219; for media arrangements: Peter Rehak, (416) 314-9355

Attention News/Assignment Editors:

Chiefs of Ontario to present forum on Aboriginal issues to Ipperwash Inquiry on March 8 and 9, 2006

TORONTO, March 6 /CNW/ - The Chiefs of Ontario, a coordinating body for 134 First Nation communities in the province, will present a two-day forum to the Ipperwash Inquiry on March 8 and 9 dealing with issues that include land claims policy, the criminal justice system, aboriginal occupations and relations between aboriginals and the police.

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

The Chiefs of Ontario 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 Chiefs of Ontario event will be held at Kimball Hall in Forest, the site of the evidentiary hearings. The session on March 8 will run from 9 a.m. to about 4:45 p.m. and on March 9 from 9 a.m. to about 3:45 p.m.

The purpose of the forum is for the Chiefs of Ontario to identify systemic issues affecting First Nations and government relations, and to make recommendations to address these issues. The forum will include panel discussions. Some of the panelists are:

- Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse
- Deputy Grand Council Chief Nelson Toulouse, Union of Ontario Indians
- Grand Chief Denise Stonefish, Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians
- Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Grand Chief Arnold Gardner, Grand Council Treaty No. 3
- Chief Dr. Dean Jacobs, Ekejwanong Territory (Walpole Island)
- Chief William Phillips, Mohawks of Akwesasne
- Grand Chief Stan J. Louttit, Mushkegowuk Tribal Council
- Chief Dave General, Six Nations of the Grand River
- Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation
- Ron George, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, OPP

This event is the second of two special presentations to the Inquiry on issues relevant to the Inquiry's policy and research mandate. The first presentation was by the Ontario Provincial Police on January 26 and 27, 2006.

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

The event will be webcast live at: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca

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

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

For further information: Noelle Spotton, Policy Counsel, Ipperwash
Inquiry, (416) 314-9472; for media arrangements: Peter Rehak, (416) 314-9355