

SECOND PHASE OF BRAIDWOOD INQUIRY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

June 30, 2008

VANCOUVER – The second phase of the Braidwood Commissions of Inquiry into the use of conducted energy weapons (Tasers) in British Columbia is scheduled to begin on October 20, retired B.C. Appeal Court Justice Thomas R. Braidwood, QC, announced today.

The second phase will focus specifically on the events surrounding the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver International Airport in October last year. Mr. Dziekanski died shortly after being Tasered by RCMP officers.

Mr. Braidwood was appointed in February by B.C. Attorney General Wally Oppal to head two commissions of inquiry. The first was a “study” commission into the use, safety and effectiveness of conducted energy weapons in B.C. by police forces other than the RCMP. The second phase will be a “hearing” and “study” commission into the death of Mr. Dziekanski.

Unlike a “study” commission, a “hearing” commission has the authority to compel participants to appear before it and to produce documentary information. A “hearing” commission can also make a finding of misconduct against a person or persons, or make a report that alleges misconduct by a person or persons.

The government decided to separate the two commissions. The “study” commission could proceed immediately since its scope was broad and its results could be given immediate attention. The second commission would need to consider several reviews and investigations into Mr. Dziekanski’s death and these should inform the commission if possible and appropriate.

The hearings will be held in room 801 at the Federal Court Building, 701 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Details of the criteria for participating and the procedures for the second phase of the inquiry will be posted on the commission’s website (<http://www.braidwoodinquiry.ca/>) in the coming weeks.

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For more information please contact:

Chris Freimond
604-990-1378
778-840-2428 (cell)