

BRAIDWOOD COMMISSION RELEASES DETAILS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR HEARINGS INTO DEATH OF ROBERT DZIEKANSKI

August 12, 2008

VANCOUVER – The Braidwood Hearing and Study Commission today published details of the application process for people who wish to participate in the public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver International Airport on October 14, 2007. Mr. Dziekanski died soon after an RCMP officer used a conducted energy weapon (Taser) against him.

The participant application package and a Practice and Procedure Directive for Evidentiary Hearings as authorized by the *Public Inquiry Act* are available on the commission's website at <http://www.braidwoodinquiry.ca/>. The Terms of Reference for the commission, and other information about the commission, may also be viewed on the website.

The commission, headed by retired B.C. Appeal Court Justice Thomas R. Braidwood, QC, is scheduled to begin hearings in Vancouver on October 20. The hearings are expected to last six weeks. If additional hearings are required, they will be scheduled in early 2009.

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 deadline for all applications for participation in the inquiry into Mr. Dziekanski's death is **3 p.m. on Friday, September 5, 2008**. The commission will also accept written submissions on policy issues, which should be submitted by **November 28, 2008**.

The hearings are open to the public and applications are not required for people interested in attending as observers unless otherwise informed by the commissioner. The venue for the hearings will be room 801 at the Federal Court Building, 701 West Georgia Street, Vancouver.

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