

**MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT NAMES COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO OVERSIGHT OF ONTARIO'S
PEDIATRIC FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SYSTEM**

Report To Be Delivered Within One Year

TORONTO — The Honourable Mr. Justice Stephen Goudge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario has been appointed to lead a public inquiry into the oversight of Ontario's pediatric forensic pathology system in the wake of the Chief Coroner's review into the work of Dr. Charles Smith, Attorney General Michael Bryant announced today.

Under the terms of reference, the report is expected within one year.

"I am very pleased Justice Goudge has agreed to lead this Inquiry," Bryant said. "He is a most respected jurist who I believe is just the person to give us solid recommendations to restore and enhance public confidence in pediatric forensic pathology, and its future use in investigations and criminal proceedings. We must get to the bottom of what happened and ensure nothing like this happens again."

Justice Goudge will be assisted by an expert medical and scientific panel chaired by Senator Larry Campbell, former Chief Coroner of British Columbia.

"Given the complexity of the subject matter of this Inquiry, we want to ensure Justice Goudge has expert resources available to support him," said Bryant. "Mr. Campbell has the depth and breadth of experience to ensure the Inquiry has the scientific and medical knowledge and insight needed to fulfil its mandate."

In carrying out his systemic review, the Commissioner will not report on any individual cases relating to Dr. Smith's work. This is to ensure the integrity of any ongoing or future court proceedings, and in recognition of existing Criminal Code processes for addressing potential wrongful convictions.

"Crown counsel have been assigned to the individual cases," said Bryant. "We will be quickly disclosing to defence counsel the case-specific results we have received from the Coroner, and we are ready to respond to any next steps by the defence. We will cooperate fully and do all we can to expedite access for individual cases where injustices are claimed to the institutions that resolve such claims."

Justice Goudge was managing partner of a major Toronto law firm before being appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1996. During his distinguished 26 years in litigation practice, he appeared before many administrative tribunals and Courts at all levels in Ontario and before the Supreme Court of Canada. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1982. Justice Goudge was active in the Ontario Bar Association and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. He is a Judicial Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

- 30 -

Contacts:

Greg Crone
Ministry of the Attorney General
Minister's Office
(416) 326-1785
Disponible en français

www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca

Brendan Crawley
Ministry of the Attorney General
Communications Branch
(416) 326-2210