

JUDGE, CROWN APPOINTED TO DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY

Thursday, July 12, 2018 (Halifax, NS) – The Honourable Warren K. Zimmer, a judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia, will preside over the fatality inquiry into the deaths of Aaliyah, Shanna, Brenda and Lionel Desmond.

As per the province's *Fatality Investigations Act*, the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court is responsible for appointing a judge to oversee such inquiries.

Judge Zimmer received his L.L.B. from Dalhousie University in 1974, his L.L.M. from the University of Sydney in 1977, and was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1978. Judge Zimmer worked as a Crown prosecutor until 1983 when he entered private practice, specializing in criminal and related matters. He was appointed to the Bench on April 12, 2011.

The Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service has appointed a dedicated prosecutor to attend at the inquiry, pursuant to the *Fatality Investigations Act*. Allen Murray, Q.C., Chief Crown Attorney in Antigonish, graduated from law school at Dalhousie University in 1990. He articulated with Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales in Halifax and spent four years as a staff lawyer with Nova Scotia Legal Aid in Antigonish before joining the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service in 2001.

As previously announced, the fatality inquiry proceedings will be held in the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, close to the community where the deaths occurred in January 2017. A date has not yet been set for the inquiry. Preparations are underway now and it is expected to begin later this year.

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