

EXHIBIT ACCESS IN DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 (Halifax, NS) – Access to exhibits in the Desmond Fatality Inquiry in Guysborough, N.S., will be handled as per the process for requesting access to exhibits during trials in the Nova Scotia Courts.

That process is outlined in the attached Exhibit Access Policy, which is also available online as part of the Courts' [Media Access Guidelines](#).

Members of the media looking to view Inquiry exhibits are asked to email Jennifer Stairs, the Judiciary's Communications Director, with the exhibit number and the date the document was entered as an exhibit. Those requests will be reviewed by The Hon. Warren Zimmer, the Provincial Court Judge presiding over the Inquiry.

Due to the sensitive nature of the evidence and the personal and private information included in many of the Inquiry documents, the exhibits will not be posted on the Inquiry website.

Although the Inquiry team appreciates that timely access to exhibits is important to the media, that access cannot jeopardize the administration of justice. As such, Judge Zimmer may restrict access as needed, including what the exhibits may be used for (i.e. make them available for inspection but not for publication or broadcast). This is especially important during a fatality inquiry where the evidence included in an exhibit may be entered into the record at different stages of the proceedings.

If media need to refer to an exhibit to clarify information for accuracy, the Inquiry team may be able to designate an individual in Guysborough to supervise access to the exhibit on site. All other access will be coordinated through the Communications Director. If media are provided an electronic or hard copy of an exhibit, they are permitted to report only on the information that has come out in evidence on the record.

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