UPDATE ON DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS

Friday, Sept. 10, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The Desmond Fatality Inquiry will resume evidentiary hearings at the courthouse in Port Hawkesbury, N.S., at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021. The proceedings are expected to continue on Tuesday and Wednesday of that week, with Thursday, Sept. 16, also set aside, if required.

The Inquiry proceedings previously adjourned on June 23, 2021. Since then, Judge Warren Zimmer and Inquiry counsel have been reviewing the evidence presented to date and preparing the schedule of remaining witnesses.

Please note that due to physical distancing requirements, in-person access to the Inquiry hearing room continues to be restricted. Anyone not essential to the proceedings must get advance permission from Judge Zimmer to attend in person. Anyone attending the Inquiry proceedings in person will be required to wear a disposable medical mask.

To maintain the open courts principle, members of the media will be permitted to attend the proceedings in person, if there is space available in the hearing room. Unless otherwise ordered by the judge, the proceedings will also be livestreamed on the <u>Inquiry</u> <u>website</u>.

At the conclusion of the proceedings later this fall, Judge Zimmer is expected to finalize his written report containing his findings and recommendations, as per the Terms of Reference outlined in the <u>Inquiry Mandate</u>.

For additional background on the on the Desmond Fatality Inquiry, as well as archived webcasts and transcripts of past proceedings, please visit <u>www.desmondinquiry.ca</u>.

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