UPDATE ON DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, April 14, 2022 (Halifax, NS) – Proceedings for the Desmond Fatality Inquiry will resume at the courthouse in Port Hawkesbury, N.S. next week. The Inquiry is expected to sit at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, and Wednesday, April 20, for closing submissions.

COVID-19 restrictions continue to be in effect at all Nova Scotia courthouses. As such, in-person access to the Inquiry hearing room will be limited to ensure at least one metre of physical distancing. Anyone not essential to the Inquiry proceedings must get advance permission from Judge Warren 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 website</u>.

Later this year, Judge Zimmer is expected to release a written report with his findings and recommendations, as per the Terms of Reference outlined in the <u>Inquiry Mandate</u>.

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

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