Attention News/Assignment Editors:

Ipperwash Inquiry Announces Hearings

TORONTO, March 9 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry will hold hearings on standing and funding starting on April 20, 2004, in Forest, Ontario, Justice Sidney B. Linden, the Commissioner of the Inquiry, announced today.

The hearings will be held at the Forest Memorial Community Centre (Kimball Hall) at 6276 Townsend Line, in Forest. Forest is part of the Municipality of Lambton Shores. The hearings will continue as required on April 21, 22 and 23.

On April 20, the hearings will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., on subsequent days from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Standing before a Commission of Inquiry gives the individual or organization the right to take part in the proceedings and to make submissions on terms set by the Commissioner. The Inquiry is inviting applications from any person or group who has a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of the Inquiry or whose participation may be helpful to fulfill the Commissioner's mandate.

Applications for standing and funding should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2004, by delivering a copy to the Commission's offices. The address is: 250 Yonge Street, 29th Floor, P.O. Box 30, Toronto, Ont. M5G 2N7; Telephone 416-314-9200; Fax (416) 314-9393; e-mail: feedback@ipperwashinquiry.ca.

The Commission's draft Rules of Procedure and on Funding as well as more information on the hearings may be found on the Inquiry's web page at: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca. The public is invited to comment on the draft rules by March 15, 2004.

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario on November 12, 2003, under the Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate is to report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by Aboriginal people at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died. The Commission is also directed to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances.

The Commissioner intends to separate the inquiry into two phases that will run concurrently. Part 1 will deal with the events surrounding the death of Dudley George. Part 2 will deal with the policy issues and recommendations directed to the avoidance of violence in similar circumstances.

The hearings proper will start on July 12, 2004 at the Forest Memorial Community centre, the same venue where the hearings on standing will be held.

A tentative schedule is available on the Inquiry's web page www.ipperwashinquiry.ca.

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