Attention News/Assignment Editors

Leading Experts and Academics Take Part in Symposium on Police and Government Sponsored by Osgoode Hall Law School and the Ipperwash Inquiry

TORONTO, June 24 /CNW/ - Leading experts and academics will be participating in a one-day symposium on relations between police and governments organized jointly by the Ipperwash Inquiry and Osgoode Hall Law School.

The symposium will be held on Tuesday, June 29th, 2004, at the Osgoode Professional Development Centre, 1 Dundas Street West, 26th Floor, Toronto, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Six academic research papers have been prepared and will be presented at the symposium. The authors are Kent Roach, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto; Dianne Martin, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; Margaret Beane, Department of Sociology and Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; Philip Stenning, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; Gordon Christie, Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia and Lorne Sossin, Faculty of Law and Department of Political Science, University of Toronto.

The pre-conference drafts of their papers have been posted on the Ipperwash Inquiry's web site: www.ipperwashinquiry.ca. The conference agenda and more detailed information about the symposium and the Inquiry is also available on the website.

Commentators on the papers include Ron Atkey, a former chairman of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service Review Committee; Susan Eng former chair of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board; R.H. Simmonds, former Commissioner of the RCMP; Tonita Murray. Director General of the Canadian Police College; Reg Whitaker, author and professor, University of Victoria; Kim Murray, Aboriginal Legal Services; Alan Borovoy of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Wesley Pue of the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Justice Peter Cory will open the conference at a dinner on the evening of June 28, 2004 with a speech titled: "Reflections on Recent Experience with Public Inquiries."

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario under Public Inquiries Act, and its mandate is to inquire and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by First Nations representatives at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died.

The Inquiry is also to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances. The Commissioner, the Honourable Sidney B. Linden, has separated 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 symposium is being held under Part 2. The symposium is open to the media and public with prior registration due to limited space.

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