



## **Overview of Weekly Proceedings for the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry**

*By Robyn dean Gervais, Independent Counsel for Aboriginal Interests, Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry*

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The purpose of this overview is to provide readers with a brief summary of the proceedings of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry for the week of December 26, 2011. Readers are welcome to distribute this summary to any person or organization they think may benefit from it.

Readers are also welcome to follow my Twitter feed at RobynGervaisMWI, or to visit the website of Harper Grey LLP (<http://www.harpergrey.com>), the firm of Bryan Baynham, Q.C., who is providing *pro bono* counsel.

### **A. PREPARATIONS FOR JANUARY**

The Commission offices are closed for the holiday season until January 9, 2012.

I am currently reviewing disclosure and preparing for the cross examination of RCMP Superintendent Robert J. Williams ("Williams"), who authored the Williams Report ("the report"). The stated purpose of the report is "to prepare for current and future litigation(s) in this matter and any other statement of claim that may arise". The Williams Report was entered as an exhibit earlier in the hearings and can be found at the following link:

<http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/EXHIBIT-2-Royal-Canadian-Mounted-Police-RCMP-Request-for-Assistance-External-Review.pdf>

Commission Counsel will begin cross examination of Williams on January 11, 2012 at 9:30 am. Counsel for the Department of Justice/RCMP will then begin their examination of Williams, followed by Cameron Ward for the families, Jason Gratl for Downtown East Side community interests. I will cross-examine Williams after Mr. Gratl. It is anticipated that Williams will conclude giving evidence on January 13, 2012.

I am also in the process of interviewing potential witnesses and continuing to engage in community outreach.

**B. DEPUTY CHIEF JENNIFER EVANS OF THE PEEL REGIONAL POLICE**

We anticipate that Deputy Chief Jennifer Evans (“Evans”) of the Peel Regional Police will begin her testimony on January 16, 2012 at 9:30 am. Following Evans, the Commission will hear testimony from individual officers and community witnesses. We have not yet received a schedule for the order of these witnesses.

**C. HEARINGS TO COMMENCE EARLIER**

Please note that when the Commission hearings resume on January 11, 2012, *they will commence at 9:30 a.m.*, Monday through Thursday, not at 10:00 a.m. as has been the practice thus far. Hearings will continue to adjourn every day at 4:00 p.m. This will likely remain the case for the duration of the Commission. It is also possible that the Commission will have to begin sitting on Fridays, although no decision has yet been made on this point.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to offer any comments, suggestions or insight.

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