

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Nova Scotia Department of Justice- Parsons Case Independent Review**

In accordance with my authority as the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and my responsibility for the prosecution service and the administration of justice within the Province, as well as Section 7 of the *Police Act*, S.N.S., 2004, c. 31 and Section 6 of the *Public Prosecutions Act*, S.N.S. 1990, c. 21, I am ordering and authorizing an independent, external review.

#### **Purpose:**

- The Department of Justice will engage an out-of-province independent expert in the areas of policing and prosecutions to conduct a review.
- The purpose of the review is to focus on the police and the Public Prosecution Service's handling of the Parsons case, the related policies and procedures, and to result in recommendations for improvements to the justice system.
- The review shall respect the principle of prosecutorial discretion, and all reasonable measures shall be taken to ensure it does not impact any ongoing criminal investigation or proceeding.
- The review shall take into consideration the impact of technology on young people, their families, their interaction with the justice system, and police investigations.

#### **Scope/Responsibilities:**

The scope of the review is as follows:

- To determine whether the police investigation into the Parsons matter complied with all training, policies, procedures and guidelines in place at the time of the investigation;
- To determine whether the policies, procedures and guidelines for police regarding investigations of allegations of sexual assault, child pornography, and other offences related to cyberbullying are adequate and appropriate;
- To determine whether the length of time taken to conduct the police investigation in the Parsons matter was appropriate, and if not, to determine how investigations could reasonably be expedited in similar cases;
- To determine whether the advice given to police by the Public Prosecution Service in the Parsons matter complied with all appropriate training, policies, procedures and guidelines established by the Public Prosecution Service;
- To determine whether the policies and guidelines of the Public Prosecution Service regarding advice to police when the police request such assistance are adequate and appropriate;

- To determine whether the complementary but distinct roles of the police and the Public Prosecution Service were understood and respected;
- To make recommendations on any of the preceding matters.

**Reporting:**

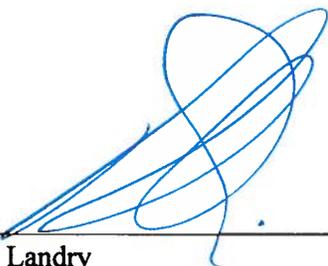
The independent out-of-province expert shall report his or her findings and any recommendations based on his or her analysis in a written report to the Minister of Justice and the Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. In writing the report, the expert will respect personal privacy concerns.

The expert shall provide regular updates to the Ministers, and the written report will be provided to the Ministers by April 1, 2014, or sooner if practicable.

The report shall be a matter of public record.

I hereby order that Murray Segal, LLB, BCL, shall conduct the review.

DATED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013, Halifax Regional Municipality, Province of Nova Scotia.



Ross Landry  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General