

## UPDATE ON DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023 (Halifax, NS) – The proceedings for the Desmond Fatality Inquiry will reopen for at least one day beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, to allow counsel an opportunity to make submissions before Judge Paul Scovil.

Last month, Judge Scovil was appointed to take over all responsibilities related to the Inquiry after presiding Judge Warren Zimmer's status as a Provincial Court judge ended. Soon after, Judge Scovil began reviewing the transcripts, archived video and hundreds of exhibits introduced over the previous 56 days of hearings.

Closing submissions from counsel and the parties took place in April 2022; however, due to recent developments, Judge Scovil feels it is important that counsel have an opportunity to make final submissions before he prepares his report and recommendations.

The Inquiry proceedings will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the Port Hawkesbury courthouse, located at 15 Kennedy Street in Port Hawkesbury. Members of the public and media may attend in person. The proceedings will also be livestreamed at <https://desmondinquiry.ca/webcast.html> and the archived video posted on the Inquiry website.

As per the *Fatality Investigations Act*, when the final report and recommendations are complete, they will be filed with the Provincial Court. A copy will also be provided to the Minister of Justice and released to the public on the Desmond Fatality Inquiry website.

For additional background on the Desmond Fatality Inquiry, as well as archived webcasts and transcripts of past proceedings, please visit [www.desmondinquiry.ca](http://www.desmondinquiry.ca).

-30-

### **Media Contact:**

Jennifer Stairs  
Communications Director  
Nova Scotia Judiciary  
Cell: 902-221-5257  
Email: [stairsjl@courts.ns.ca](mailto:stairsjl@courts.ns.ca)