

## UPDATE ON DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020 (Halifax, NS) – Due to the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Desmond Fatality Inquiry will be held in a new location when the proceedings resume.

The evidentiary hearings began on Jan. 27, 2020, at the Guysborough Municipal Building in Guysborough County, and adjourned on March 2, 2020. The Inquiry had anticipated resuming the evidentiary hearings in late May; however, due to the pandemic, Judge Warren Zimmer opted to wait until he was confident the proceedings could continue safely and in compliance with public health directives.

It soon became apparent the Inquiry could not proceed at the current site in Guysborough and still respect physical distancing. Using the COVID-19 Court Recovery Plan as a guide, Judge Zimmer has been working with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice – Court Services Division to make alternative arrangements for the resumption of the Inquiry. Those discussions are ongoing, and a decision is expected soon. Once the location has been confirmed, the Inquiry will be able to release more information about the resumption of proceedings.

In the meantime, Inquiry counsel is continuing its work interviewing and preparing witnesses, providing disclosure to counsel, and research required for the second stage.

For more information on the Desmond Fatality Inquiry, including transcripts and archived footage of the first stage of the proceedings, go to [www.desmondinquiry.ca](http://www.desmondinquiry.ca).

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